

Iraq reports target hit in Gulf

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes hit a "naval target" in the Gulf Friday, near Iran's main oil terminal at Kharg Island. A military spokesman said the attack was carried out at two p.m. (1100 GMT) and all aircraft involved returned safely to base. Gulf shipping sources had no immediate information to confirm the report. The reported attack brings to 12 the number of ships Iraq says it has hit in the Gulf this year. Independent shipping sources have confirmed only three attacks this month. The last, on Jan. 11, was on the 10,267-ton Iranian bulk carrier Iran Emdad. Baghdad previously has applied the term "naval target" to mean merchant vessels, while often adding "large" when referring to a tanker.

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Fateh leadership meet in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — The Central Committee of Fateh, the mainstream Palestinian commando group, has been meeting here since Thursday night to review recent developments in the Arab World, the Tunisian news agency TAP said Friday. The murder in Amman last month of Fakhri al-Qawasmeh, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, as well as reported death threats against Palestinian officials, were being discussed at the meeting. TAP quoted Palestinian sources as saying. Another key issue at the meeting is a proposal by King Hussein for a joint Jordan-PLO approach in the search for a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict. TAP said. The PLO has not yet formally replied to the proposal made by King Hussein during a session of the Palestine National Council in Amman last November.

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Urquhart arrives in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — U.N. Under-Secretary General Brian Urquhart arrived in Beirut Friday for talks with President Amin Gemayel, Prime Minister Rashid Karameh and other Lebanese officials on Israel's plans for withdrawing its occupation forces from South Lebanon. Mr. Urquhart was scheduled to arrive Friday morning from Israel, where he held talks with Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, but weather conditions delayed his arrival.

Wounded Israeli colonel dies

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli army colonel Thursday died of wounds received in a commando attack in South Lebanon on Monday, a military spokesman said. Colonel Avraham Eitan was seriously injured when two roadside bombs exploded near the village of Arzay, killing two soldiers instantly and wounding six others. The attack came as the Israeli government decided on a unilateral three-phase withdrawal from South Lebanon. The Israeli death toll has reached 608 since the 1982 invasion.

India arrests 5 for 'spying'

NEW DELHI (AP) — Five ranking government officials and two businessmen have been arrested on charges of leaking vital information about Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's office and India's defence, to foreigners, United News of India reported Friday. The news agency report came hours after Mr. Gandhi told parliament that "certain employees in sensitive positions" had been arrested on suspicion of indulging in "activities detrimental to national interests." Quoting unidentified "reliable sources," UNI said the five officials included three working in Mr. Gandhi's secretariat and two for the defence ministry.

Mubarak forced to make stopover in Rome

ROME (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, unexpectedly arrived in Rome Friday, after his flight home from Athens was diverted because of a sandstorm in Cairo, airport officials said. There was no word on when Mr. Mubarak would leave Rome. Mr. Mubarak's return home following a two-day visit to Greece already had been delayed for 14 hours in the Greek capital.

Mitterrand sends greetings to Arafat

TUNIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand has sent a new year's message to Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said Thursday. Mr. Mitterrand's message, in reply to one sent by Mr. Arafat, expressed the hope that "the Palestinian people will attain their objectives during 1985," the agency said.

Jordan sees move as 'significant', but caution prevails

Too early to judge impact on U.S.-Soviet dialogue on Mideast, Masri says

By Safameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri has described as "significant" Washington's announcement Wednesday that the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to hold talks on the Middle East problem, but he said that it was too early for Jordan to comment on the development at this particular time.

The U.S. confirmation that it intends to hold a dialogue with Moscow on the Middle East as part of the two superpowers' consultations on the regional level is "significant," Mr. Masri said in a statement to the Jordan Times Friday "but the full implications (of the step) are not very clear yet," he said.

The foreign minister said Jordan considers it "too early to comment" on the U.S. announcement, "although we believe that the move comes as a continuation of what President Reagan told the U.N. General Assembly last year."

Mr. Masri was referring to a speech by President Reagan to the General Assembly last September in which he said Washington would be interested to hold "policy level" talks with the Soviet Union on various regional issues, including the Middle East conflict.

The foreign minister recalled that shortly after the Reagan speech Jordan had outlined what it considers as the basic requirements for a political settlement to the Middle East conflict. Mr. Masri himself had addressed the General Assembly and said the most important of these requirements were "the res-

Union, why not agree to hold such talks through the (projected) international conference," said one official who preferred not to be named. "We believe the U.S. refusal (to hold the international conference) is not final, and there is still room for manoeuvre on this score," said another senior official, who also did not want to be named.

"We hope the latest move by the two superpowers is the precursor for a new international movement to solve the Palestinian problem," the official said. "Although our past experiences (with the U.S.) are not encouraging, we have to be optimistic that this experience, if consistent with the genuine search for movement in the area, will be different," he added. "The Europeans also appear to be playing a stronger role in the search for Middle East peace this time, and in putting pressure on the Americans to move, and we are hopeful that combined efforts by the international community will improve chances for a settlement in the end."

The date and agenda for the planned U.S.-Soviet talks still remain to be fixed, and the meeting would not be "a matter of formal negotiation," Mr. McFarlane said in his statement to an American television network. It would be "the kind of normal exchange that two countries would agree to have when they are trying to understand each other's point of view and perhaps some day narrow the differences," he said.

The U.S. stand at the talks would favour direct talks between the Arabs and Israel, Mr. McFarlane said, and that Washington would urge Moscow to put pressure "in a positive way on the states with whom they have some influence."

Israel expects to hold talks with Lebanon on withdrawal process

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel expects to hold talks with Lebanese army officers on Monday on ways of avoiding bloodshed after it withdraws its troops from Lebanon, an Israeli official said Friday.

The official said U.N. Under-Secretary General Brian Urquhart told Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir Thursday that Beirut seemed willing to resume talks in the border village of Naqoura on Monday. Israel broke off the talks on Jan. 7 after 12 sessions failed to produce agreement.

Mr. Urquhart, who was in Beirut Friday and is due back in Tel Aviv on Sunday, said the Lebanese were concerned that the withdrawal would be followed by a factional bloodbath as was the case when Israel withdrew from the Shouf mountains in 1983.

The Israeli cabinet decided last Monday on a three-stage unilateral withdrawal with the first stage scheduled to be completed by Feb. 18. A military spokesman said the army would start removing equipment within two weeks.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Labour Party cabinet Thursday night that Israel had allotted five weeks for the Lebanese army and U.N. peacekeepers to take up positions vacated by Israel but would not wait any longer.

Mr. Urquhart told Mr. Shamir the U.N. would not be able to play a role in the evacuated region without a formal request from the Lebanese government to change the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping force that has been deployed in a narrow belt in the south since 1978.

The first stage of the withdrawal includes the evacuation of Sidon, the largest city under Israeli occupation, to a new line along the Litani River.

The second phase, tentatively scheduled for the spring, includes a pullback from eastern Lebanon, where Israeli soldiers are within easy artillery range of Damascus and control strategic mountains overlooking the Bekaa Valley. Mr. Rabin said he hoped to complete the withdrawal by summer.

Mr. Urquhart said, according to an Israeli spokesman, that Lebanon would have to ask the U.N. Security Council to broaden the mandate of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) if it were to take over areas evacuated by the Israelis.

The first phase of the Israeli plan calls for Israeli troops to redeploy along a line starting about five kilometres north of the city of Tyre and running northeast through the Arnoun Heights north of Nabatieh up to the present Israeli line along the Awali River.

There are between 250,000 and 400,000 inhabitants in the area to be evacuated in the first phase. After this pullback, nearly 400,000 people, including some 230,000 Shiite Muslims, 70,000 Christians, 30,000 Druze and 40,000 Palestinians will remain under Israeli occupation.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has called for U.N. peacekeeping forces to be deployed to protect Palestinians when Israel completes the first stage of its withdrawal.

U.S. 'concerned' over Israel settling Falashas in West Bank

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The Reagan administration has told Israel it is concerned that some Ethiopian Jewish refugees may have been settled in the occupied West Bank, the New York Times reported Friday.

Citing unidentified U.S. State Department officials, the Times said the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv was instructed to complain to the Israelis about reports that hundreds of Ethiopians were sent to the Kiryat Arba settlement outside Hebron in the West Bank.

The United States has given Israel some \$12.5 million for the resettlement expenses of new immigrants this fiscal year, and Washington wants to make sure none is spent on enlarging settlements

in the West Bank, according to the Times.

An Israeli embassy official in Washington responded to the American complaint, saying that when Israeli Minister of Immigration Yakov Tzur was in Washington recently, he gave assurances that the West Bank would not necessarily be the refugees' home, the Times said. The minister reportedly said five processing centres are handling the Ethiopian refugees, and only one of them is in the West Bank.

American officials in Tel Aviv said Thursday the United States has told Israel it should not use U.S. aid to settle Ethiopian Jews in the occupied West Bank and Golan Heights.

"The \$15 million a year we are giving Israel for refugees can't be spent across the green line," a U.S. official told Reuters. The term refers to Israel's pre-1967 boundaries.

The Haaretz newspaper said a number of Ethiopian Jews who arrived in Israel in recent years were allotted apartments in the Arab West Bank and Golan Heights which Israel occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

The report said at least one minister urged the government to send some of the black Jews, also known as Falashas, recently airlifted to Israel to settlements in the occupied territories, which Washington has called obstacles to Middle East peace.



ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS: King Juan Carlos of Spain Thursday received the credentials of Jordan's ambassador to Spain, Mohammad Afshar Al Adwan, who also conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein to the Spanish monarch stressing Jordan's keenness on strengthening and promoting bilateral relations. Dr. Adwan also expressed Jordan's appreciation for Spanish support for Arab causes. Dr. Adwan formerly served as director of Her Majesty Queen Noor's office.

Beirut car bomb kills 3

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb exploded in west Beirut and shellfire rocked the mostly Christian sector and its suburbs Friday. Police said the violence claimed three lives and left 17 people injured, all civilians.

The bomb-rigged car went off in a vacant lot that generally is full of children who use it as a playground. But there were not many around at the time of the explosion at 11:50 a.m. (0950 GMT) and police said two pedestrians were killed and 12 others wounded.

Armed militiamen — in uniforms and civilian clothes — blocked reporters and photographers from getting near the scene. But chunks of metal, barely recognisable as an auto, could be seen in the parking lot.

Government troops and militiamen clashed in artillery battles after midday on the hills overlooking the capital. Police and witnesses said shells and rockets crashed in the suburbs of Hazmieh and Baabda, where the presidential palace is located.

One civilian was killed and another injured in Hazmieh, police said. Several rockets struck about 500 metres from President Amin Gemayel's palace in Baabda but the two-storey villa was not hit, witnesses quoted by the Associated Press said.

The day's violence opened with six shell blasts that injured four civilians in east Beirut in the morning.

Police said four civilians, including three school children, were wounded in the shell explosions that rocked the residential neighbourhoods of Ain Al Rmmamneh and Furr Al Shubhak in east Beirut.

Police also announced that two bombs, each comprising five kilograms of TNT, were safely defused in a garbage bin at the entrance of a bottling plant in west Beirut minutes before they were timed to go off Friday morning.

Sixteen people were killed and more than 125 injured in a spree of bombings that hit banks, restaurants, gas stations and parking lots in Beirut's western sector in the past 10 days.

Israeli tank opens fire on Lebanese army lines

BEIRUT (R) — An Israeli tank Friday fired three shells into Lebanese army-held territory north of the Israeli front lines, a Lebanese army spokesman said.

The tank drove Friday morning onto a bridge that crosses the Awali River — the front line of Israeli troops occupying South Lebanon — and fired three shells into the Iqlim Al Kharroub, the spokesman said.

Police in Sidon, provincial capital of occupied South Lebanon, said the three rounds fired by the Israeli tank struck Wardenah, in the southern flank of the Kharroub province.

Police said they had no immediate reports of casualties.

It was the first such incident since the Lebanese army took control of the Kharroub region on Saturday in preparation for deployment in South Lebanon when the Israelis withdrew.

The Lebanese troops did not reach the Awali River, 38 kilometres south of Beirut, on Saturday because of Israeli army and pro-Israeli militia checkpoints two kilometres north of the river.

Lebanese military sources have questioned Israel's desire to coordinate the withdrawal with the Lebanese. Israel has said its evacuation of the Sidon area, just south of the Awali, would be finished within five weeks to complete the first part of a three-stage plan to end the 31-month-old occupation of the south.

Meanwhile in Tel Aviv, military sources said an Israeli army patrol Friday discovered two lullily-loaded Katyusha rocket launchers in South Lebanon three kilometres northwest of the Israeli border town of Metulla.

The rockets were aimed at northern Israeli settlements and were ready for firing, the sources added.

Washington plans increased aid to Israel. WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Reagan administration will propose a limited increase in military aid to Israel in 1986, but has put off a request for more economic aid until the economically distressed nation demonstrates it can put its fiscal house in order, according to government sources quoted by U.S. newspapers.

The New York Times reported that administration sources said Israel would probably get an additional \$400 million in military aid for the next fiscal year over the current \$1.4 billion. But economic aid would stay at \$1.2 billion until much tougher austerity measures were effected.

In a decision approved by President Reagan earlier this week, the White House delayed any action on the increased economic aid request until later this year because Israel has failed to show it has an effective plan to deal with its runaway inflation and chaotic economy, sources quoted by the Washington Times said.

The 1986 budget request next month also will reflect what one source called "a balanced decision" on increased aid sought by Egypt, which considers itself an equal client with Israel as far as American help is concerned.

Komsomolskaya Pravda said. It said Israel was playing a "dirty political game" by settling the black Jews on the occupied West Bank. Their purpose was to turn Arabs against Ethiopia, it said.

The airlift of Falashas from Sudan would destroy their culture and ties with their homeland, it said.

"Once Israel knew they were seeking refuge in Sudan, it sent emissaries to haunt Falashas' camps," the paper said. They took advantage of the Ethiopians' suffering to lure them to Israel.

"Many Falashas yielded to them. They just did not have the strength to resist them," it said.

Obeid reveals plans for rail links with airport

AQABA (Petra) — Transport Minister Farhi Obeid Friday announced that the Ministry of Transport is planning to introduce a high-speed train service to link Amman with the Queen Alia International Airport.

Speaking at a press conference here, Mr. Obeid said the ministry is also considering plans to introduce regular train service between Aqaba and Amman and neighbouring Arab states.

The ministry's plans for Aqaba include a modern railway station and a new pier for handling fuel, the minister said.

Mr. Obeid, who was speaking to reporters after chairing a meeting of the board of directors of the Ports Corporation, revealed that in 1984 the port of Aqaba handled 6.2 million tonnes of imports and six million tonnes of exports. The exported goods were mainly phosphates, potash and fertilizers and crude oil, he said.

The Ports Corporation has decided to join the International Ports Association, the minister said.

The corporation plans to send its employees for advanced training in Arab countries and other friendly countries, he added.

During his visit to Aqaba the transport minister held talks with heads of various departments within the Ports Corporation and reviewed with them the work of Aqaba Port and ways to improve its services.

Kyprianou, Denktash hold first meeting in six years

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities held their first meeting for nearly six years but gave no hint of progress in efforts to reunite their divided island.

President Spyros Kyprianou, representing the ethnic Greeks, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash conferred for a total of about three hours in the presence of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

They were meeting again Friday to try to complete the framework

for a new federal constitution to replace the one that dissolved in inter-communal violence in 1963.

The plan was drafted during three negotiating rounds when the U.N. chief met separately with Mr. Kyprianou and Mr. Denktash, who heads a breakaway state in part of the Cyprus occupied by Turkish troops since 1974.

After a brief public handshake, the two estranged leaders were welcomed by Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who said a unique chance now existed for a settlement.

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First snow expected in the coming few days

By Sam G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first snow of the season is expected within the next 72 hours after a gradual drop in temperature, Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanda said Friday. In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Abanda explained that a deep depression is currently centred over Southern Greece, gradually moving towards the east, and it is expected to affect the East Mediterranean region by Saturday morning.

Meanwhile, he added, a widespread dust storm is affecting the region causing bad visibility in several parts of the Kingdom. The storm originated from North Africa, especially Egypt's desert regions, according to Dr. Abanda, and the weather will remain dusty during the night leading to poor visibility on the roads.

The weather will become clear

udy on Saturday morning with scattered rain over the northern part of Jordan which will eventually spread southwards during the day. The wind will be south westerly fresh with strong dust and it is rare to have such weather at this time of year, Dr. Abanda added.

Agriculture in Jordan is mostly rain-dependant, especially wheat cultivating and the success of the agricultural seasons depends on early winter rainfall. The current agricultural season already looks better than last year and farmers are looking forward to an improved harvest.

1983's wheat planting season was adversely affected due to late rainfall which did not arrive until late February. When it finally came, the rains caused floods which swept the Kingdom devastating crops and blocking roads which lead to severe accidents on the Kingdom's roads.

Arab firm to conduct studies on Amman development plans

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Municipality and an Arab consultancy firm Thursday signed an agreement to carry out preparations for the implementation of a comprehensive development scheme in Greater Amman which will serve from 1986 until 2006.

The agreement provides for demographic and labour force studies and an assessment of land needed by the municipality in order to carry out projects such as roads and public buildings. The agreement also provides for conducting feasibility studies on the municipality's projects to develop cultural and tourist sites.

The agreement was signed by Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh and a representative of the Arab consultancy firm in Amman.

It was also agreed that a higher

guidance committee will be set up under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat to follow up on the implementation of the projects and to review reports on the plans and the progress of work. Also, a technical sub-committee will be set up under the chairmanship of Mr. Rawabdeh to help the higher committee.

Following the signing ceremony it was announced that the consultancy firm and the municipality will embark on drawing up the comprehensive plan for Amman early next month.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Mr. Rawabdeh said the plan includes five elements: urban planning, transportation planning, infrastructure, administrative planning and special planning studies for the centre of Amman.

First aid training course opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course on first aid started Friday at the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) headquarters. During the five-week course, participants will receive training in the treatment of work injuries, home injuries and injuries resulting from road accidents.

Moving towards fewer accidents through safer working conditions

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During the last 1970's, the Ministry of Labour initiated a determined effort to improve the standards of occupational health and safety, after a recognition that the current levels of industrial growth in Jordan were inevitably associated with an increased incidence of industrial accidents. Although steps were taken to compensate for the consequences of these accidents, it was clear that prevention represented the essential element of any safety policy.

Initially, plans were formulated on the basis of a specialised department within the ministry of labour, while alternative organisational systems and approaches were evaluated. Exchanges of information with other parts of the world took place, including a visit to Iraq by Abdul Rahman Abdel-Jaber, who was later appointed director of the Occupational Safety and Health Institute (OSHI).

The OSHI was established in September 1981 when, in response to a request from Jordan, a mission from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) visited the country. Their suggestion was the opening of a considerably large institute comprising eight departments and with an initial staff complement in excess of 76. Although a project on such a large scale was not considered necessary or appropriate by the Jordanian authorities, permission to establish an institute was obtained from the cabinet in March 1982.

The OSHI officially came into being in March 1983 as a part of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) and started active work only at the beginning of 1984, under the direction of Dr. Abdel-Jaber.

Reducing accidents

The general purpose of the institute is to develop the skills necessary and to take appropriate practical steps to arrest the increasing incidence of occupational accidents in Jordanian industry. It is supported by the Ministry of Labour and by a number of Jordanian organisations whose work in some degree overlaps into the field of occupational safety, such as the Ministry of Health, the Social Security Corporation, the Royal Scientific Society and the University of Jordan. Since the field of occupational safety and health frequently overlaps with the field of environmental care, the institute has opened communications with the appropriate division of the Ministry of the Environment in order to ensure that solutions to occupational problems do not lead to environmental damage.

Financially, OSHI receives some help from the ministry of Labour. There are, however, two agencies in Jordan which are particularly interested in the institute's work, the Social Security Corporation, which has to pay for every accident that occurs on the job, and the Industrial Development Bank, which gives loans to industry and is therefore interested in a high level of industrial work. They both usually give grants to the institute which enable it to expand its activities.

Recently, the Industrial Development Bank provided a grant which will be used for buying occupational safety films and for sending the institute's specialised staff on training courses next year. The Social Security Corporation also gave grant which is being used in the building of new offices in another floor of the building where OSHI is presently located. Other government institutions, the Arab Labour Organisation

(ALO), and the Overseas Development Agency (ODA) from the United Kingdom also help the institute on regular basis. Some help has also come from the ILO in the USA.

While OSHI has, presently, only a staff of six (due mainly to the limited space), all highly qualified in various engineering fields, considerable expertise in the safety field is existing in Jordan and the institute wants to act as a focal point for safety work, ensuring that the best advantage is gained from the knowledge available wherever it may be located.

OSHI's objectives may be reduced to four principal categories of activity, namely: teaching, education and training, and advice-giving capability, a consultancy capability and work study, which embraces all aspects of the institute's research work, collaboration and coordination.

Teaching, education and training were OSHI's earliest functions to be clearly defined. During 1984, five short safety programmes have been conducted, one for safety officers, one for inspectors, one for training officers and two for training trainers. More programmes are planned for 1985. While OSHI is presently concentrating its training efforts on inspectors, industrial safety officers, teachers, industrial management and specialists, it is also concerned with developing safety programmes for workers, as "unskilled labourers usually obey orders but are not very concerned about safety", Dr. Abdel-Jaber said.

Although the majority of the courses are conducted centrally at OSHI's own building, it is necessary that some travelling capability is available. For this reason, the institute proposes a limited facility for the production of video tapes, and a mobile laboratory.

This will permit lectures, seminars and demonstrations to be recorded at the institute but delivered by means of a tutoring system elsewhere.

Dr. Abdel Jaber emphasises educational and training activities as OSHI's main objective, since trained officers and workers will then be able to transfer to others their knowledge on occupational safety and health and thus increase the awareness of the overall population. He said that OSHI is also planning in the future to teach courses conferring students with a diploma degree in this field.

Another category of OSHI's activities is the provision of advice, both to government and industries. In the case of the government, this advice mainly concerns legislation, in particular the establishment of regulations and the setting of standards, the inspectorate, suitable size, job description and training requirements, and general advice on safety matters for internal or external purposes.

The problems faced by the government in identifying and controlling industrial hazards may prove to be considerable. Dr. Abdel Jaber says that in Jordan there are no standards or specifications regarding materials and equipment, so activities in this field represent one of OSHI's projects for 1985. Advice to industry encompasses categories such as training requirements for safety personnel, the development of safety systems, information sources and so on.

The institute also hopes to be able to offer consultancy work in response to demand. Industrial consultancies also provide an important information resource for other facets of the institute's work. The objectives of such consultancy work are to offer solutions to industrial safety problems which cannot be resolved by internal company systems, to provide consultancy support to the government's inspectorate, and to improve and update the knowledge and understanding on the part of the institute and of the situation in Jordanian industry.

Strategies

OSHI's strategies for the control of industrial accidents is usually evolved on a basis acceptable to industry in terms of cost, future development, productivity and so forth. In a similar way, the institute recognises the importance of facilitating interaction and understanding between industry and government over safety matters such as standards and regulations. The institute has not been asked to undertake an enforcement or inspecting role which is still sole responsibility of the Ministry of Labour.

This provides is greatly valued, especially in the light of the relationship with industry. Dr. Munther Al Masri, director of the VTC, says that most of the industries welcome OSHI's advice in principle but that they are less enthusiastic if it requires expenditures.

A last, but equally important function of OSHI is work study. The objectives of this category of activity are to develop within the institute a data base of knowledge of work processes and conditions of work, enabling assessment of their effects on the health or safety of workers; to facilitate decision making on resource allocation by establishing priorities; to marshal resources (skills, facilities and equipment) available in Jordan for the purposes of research or problem solving in occupational safety; to demonstrate statistically, or by showing valid cause-effect relationships, these safety provisions which should be introduced, or strengthened either at the national or company level.

Field studies are carried on in response to a need. Presently, the institute is studying occupational hazards in the construction field where, according to Dr. Abdel Jaber, 20% of accidents can be found. In 1984 alone, 11 deaths were reported in this field.

Unskilled labourers

Dr. Abdel Jaber says that most difficulties in Jordan come from the turnover of labour and the need for unskilled labourers which are recruited from other countries. Also, the lack of specifications on the use of or the effects of many types of imported materials is causing problems with safety in Jordan. There is no local production of protective equipment and, since agencies like to buy large quantities, it is often difficult for labourers to obtain what they need. Other difficulties come from factories which were built in the 60's, with little safety measures and often surrounded by houses.

Dr. Abdel Jaber says that OSHI is playing a very important role in the country and that it is working hard to expand its activities. He will employ another ten people during 1985. The present building in Wadi Seer will also be expanded while a five-year plan is being carried out for the construction of a new permanent building in Marja which will become the institute's new location.

The many objectives of the institute represent a considerable commitment and must clearly be approached by a system of phased development. Dr. Abdel Jaber says that he is satisfied with the efforts of the institute during its first year and that he maintains a



Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat (centre), flanked by Minister of Interior Saleem Arar (second left) and Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin (second right), Thursday attend a cabinet session in Irbid (Petra photo)

Soviet Red Cross president condemns 'brutal' Israeli measures in W. Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Federation of Soviet Red Crescent and Red Cross societies, Dr. Valery Baltisky, has condemned the Israeli arbitrary and brutal measures directed against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Baltisky said that the Soviet federation is fully aware of the Israeli arbitrary measures against Arab prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons and against Arab students. He pointed out that accounts of such violations, which contravene Geneva accords and international laws, have been published in Soviet newspapers to inform the public about these measures. He also said that in 1982 the federation, in cooperation with the Hungarian Red Cross Society, called for an extraordinary session of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Standing Commission during which the Israeli brutal measures against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories were condemned.

Dr. Baltisky also expressed his personal strong condemnation of Israel's use of chemicals against Arab students. He also requested that Israel release all Arab prisoners and detainees since 1967 and added that Israel's policy of evicting Arab citizens from their lands is a means of confiscating these lands for building settlements.

Speaking about the Soviet Union's stand vis-a-vis the killing of Iraqi prisoners of war, Dr. Baltisky pointed out that his country does not have confirmed information about this "crime" except that announced by the ICRC but that he will discuss this issue with the ICRC president during their forthcoming meeting in April. He added that his country will define its stand towards this issue depending on the final results of a United Nations fact-finding committee on the issue.

Regarding the stand of the federation of Soviet Red Crescent and Red Cross societies towards a proposal by an Arab group to declare a day for peace, Dr. Baltisky stressed the necessity for declaring this day saying that this proposal comes in due time. He also hailed the existing relations of cooperation between the federation and its Arab counterparts describing these relations as based on "distinguished grounds".

He also pointed out that his current working visit to Jordan comes in the framework of consultation and coordination to strengthen relations between the Soviet federation and the Jordanian Red Crescent Society. He also said that the federation strongly supports the ICRC Standing Commission's stand vis-a-vis the production and storage of nuclear and chemical weapons. Dr. Baltisky left for the Syrian capital, Damascus, Friday ending his four-day visit to Jordan.

Cabinet, Irbid citizens discuss services during open session

Development projects require cooperation between public, government, Obeidat says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat has defined six points to serve as basic principles for his government's policies. He said that these are: confidence in the public, their participation in developing Jordan, citizens' responsibility, sound planning, increasing public tolerance and an emphasis on the prevalence of law.

The prime minister was addressing an open cabinet meeting held in Irbid Thursday along the lines of similar meetings held earlier in Salt and Karak. These open meetings are held periodically to discuss the local people's problems and needs and to keep the government in touch with national development.

In his speech the prime minister stressed the importance of consultations between government and citizens and close cooperation in the implementation of public services and development projects. The prime minister announced the government's determination to try and solve problems and to expand services to the public.

Mr. Obeidat said that he was proud of the public response to the government's policies on more careful spending of public funds and to the rationalisation campaign to avoid wasting energy and financial resources. "I have studied a working paper presented by Irbid Governorate on improvements for various public services and projects, and I have found that they contain reasonable requests for services in the urban and rural regions of the governorate," the prime minister said. He said that this sensible approach reflects a general awareness of the government policies

and the reasons behind them.

At the outset of the eight-hour session, Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin reaffirmed the local citizens' determination to fully cooperate with the government to carry out development projects.

Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzak Tubashat outlined the city's requests including speeding up the implementation of a sewerage project, financial support and loans to carry out the municipality's plans. He also requested assistance to enable Irbid to carry out the "Greater Irbid Project" which would include the city and adjoining towns and villages.

Local participants

Speakers at the session included mayors of towns and heads of village councils in Irbid Governorate as well as representatives from various public and private sectors and local associations.

Parliament member Salman Al Qudah spoke at the meeting calling on the government to build a hospital in Ajloun and to help the town's municipality to build roads and carry out a sewerage project. Jerash Mayor Ahmad Laban presented similar requests for roads and improving health services. These were followed by speeches from the mayors of Mafrq, North

Shuneh, Ramtha and Deir Abi Sa'id who spoke about the need to improve agricultural production in their regions. The speakers also called on the government to help implement projects such as building roads and hospitals, expanding telephone and power services and industrial projects. Several cabinet members spoke at the meeting in reply to requests and questions put forth by the speakers.

Schools, tourism

Education Minister Hikmat Al Saket spoke about his ministry's plans for building schools and said that the ministry will try to help municipalities obtain loans for building schools. He said the ministry has allocated funds for building schools in a number of areas in Jerash, North Shuneh and Mafrq districts.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Al Nabulsi spoke about plans for establishing an industrial zone in Irbid and loans offered to various municipalities. Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Taher Hikmat outlined plans for encouraging tourism in the northern regions of Jordan. He said that his ministry, in cooperation with the Social Security Corporation, is now involved in developing tourist regions in Ajloun, Jerash and the northern Jordan Valley region.

Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Al Bashir spoke about plans for developing range land, and forest areas and Public Works Minister Rayef Nijm said JD 4 million has been allocated for building main and agricultural roads in Irbid Governorate.

Pipeline project awaiting guarantees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Iraq are still awaiting guarantees from an American firm involved in implementing an oil pipeline project linking Iraq with Jordan before actual work on the project can begin, under secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Oil, Mr. Abdul Munem Al Samarra'i, was quoted as saying in the local press.

Mr. Samarra'i, who is currently on a visit to Jordan told the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab that the American firm Bechtel has presented a detailed study of the project's financial and technical aspects and the installations needed for exporting Iraqi oil from Aqaba. However, he said, the project cannot be implemented before the necessary guarantees are obtained.

"The projected pipeline is ex-

pected to cost \$800 million and will have a capacity of exporting 50 million tonnes of oil annually," Mr. Samarra'i said.

"A joint committee from the Iraqi Oil Ministry and the Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Trade has discussed the project in detail with the American company, but these contacts have been suspended for over four months now and we are awaiting the company's reply regarding the guarantees and terms for financing the project, he said.

Mr. Samarra'i said that Jordan and Iraq have prepared a draft agreement defining the responsibilities of each country in this vital project and this agreement ensures the interests of the two countries. He said that his current

visit to Jordan is in the framework of consultations between the two countries to exchange views on cooperation in oil affairs and the use of oil installations in Jordan and Iraq by either country.

According to Mr. Samarra'i, he will have talks with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib and officials from the Natural Resources Authority to review bilateral agreements on oil.

In the interview, Mr. Samarra'i said that Iraq has not yet made a request to take part in a joint pipeline to link Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia but added that Iraq might join in if its interests so require. He also spoke about the Iraqi government's efforts to develop oil fields in Iraq despite the war with Iran.

Jordan seeks export outlets in Europe

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani has said that Jordan has recently embarked on a campaign to increase its exports to the European Common Market (EEC) countries. He told the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab that European countries could buy Jordanian potash, phosphates and agricultural products adding that Jordan has conducted a limited experiment by shipping phosphates and potash to the EEC and it is hoped that these exports will increase over the coming years.

The minister said that Jordan has concluded two agreements with the EEC and plans to sign a third one soon. Because Jordan has a good record with the EEC and, due to the Kingdom's central position in the Arab World and its ability to absorb modern technology, Jordan can offer a suitable area for joint cooperation with EEC countries, the minister added.

Joint committee prepares for Baghdad talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The joint Jordanian-Iraqi committee Saturday will open a three-day meeting in Baghdad. The meeting will assess last year's cooperation between the two countries in various fields and will set plans for cooperation this year.

The Jordanian delegation, headed by Minister of Trade and Industry Jawad Al Anani, held a preparatory meeting in Amman which was attended by private and public sector representatives.

In Baghdad, a delegation from the Ministry of Trade and Industry is currently holding talks with their Iraqi counterparts on projects to be executed by the joint Jordanian-Iraqi industrial com-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Household fires injure ten people

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 80 fires have been reported to civil defence authorities since the start of this winter, according to Maj. Abdul Rahman Al Naser from the Civil Defence Department. He was quoted in the local press as saying that 10 persons have sustained burns as a result. He said that 35 per cent of the fires were caused by the misuse of gas cylinders and the rest were caused as a result of mishandling heaters, through short circuits or children tampering with electricity. The fires caused extensive damage to property, he said.

Authorities seize smuggled gold

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 50 kilograms of gold smuggled into the country has been seized by customs authorities in the southern region of the country. A spokesman for the Customs Department said that the smuggled gold was hidden in a taxi travelling to Jordan from a neighbouring Arab country. The gold will be kept with the customs authorities until the customs duty and the fines have been paid by the owners, the spokesman said.

Prayers for rain to be held Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — Prayers for rain will be held on Monday afternoon according to circular distributed Thursday by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to all preachers. The circular urges Muslims to fast on Saturday, Sunday and Monday and to pray for rain.

Aqaba requests funds for centre

AQABA (Petra) — Aqaba Municipality is building a commercial centre at the cost of JD 740,000 and financed by loans from the Cities and Villages Development Bank and the Arab Cities Organisation. A banking delegation Thursday inspected the project to assess the municipality's request for a further JD 200,000 which is needed to complete the centre.

Belgian delegation tours port

AQABA (Petra) — A delegation from the Belgian port of Zeebrugge Thursday visited Aqaba port and met with Ports Corporation Director General Mardi Qatameen. The delegation held talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations in the field of marine transport. The visiting team later toured the port and inspected its facilities.



Industrial workers, the sector which is most prone to occupational accidents, is a target for the Occupational Safety and Health Institute (J.T. file photo)

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Boosting mutual confidence

IN AN open cabinet meeting held in Irbid Thursday, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat stressed the need for establishing mutual confidence between the government and citizens because he said it is essential if development plans are to succeed in Jordan and if services are to be improved. He also stressed the need for all citizens to abide by the law and the need for tolerance and brotherly dealings and cooperation among citizens.

The prime minister said that rationalisation of consumption is required to save public property and funds, and he urged all to avoid excessive spending and wasting of public funds. In reply to requests put forth by the audience the prime minister expressed satisfaction that these requests were within reasonable limits and reflect people's understanding of the government's financial position, and so accept its achievements in their governance.

The open meeting was an embodiment of the government's policy of having a close hand study of the real problems of the citizens in Jordan, and its keenness on implementing projects that can best serve their aspirations.

Al Dustour: Popular-official cooperation

THE OPEN cabinet meeting in Irbid Thursday reflected the brotherly cooperation between members of the cabinet and the public and was characterised with frankness and sincerity. The discussions dealt with development projects that are to be implemented in Irbid governorate and the citizens' speeches reflected the public understanding and awareness of the financial situation and the government's ability to carry out projects.

No doubt, the dialogue which followed similar ones held by the cabinet in Karak and Salt helps to give more momentum to the development programmes and the progress being achieved in Jordan. This dialogue is an emphasis on the cohesion among the members of the Jordanian family and reflects the keenness of the government to have a closer look at the problems and the needs of the citizens in various regions.

The principles which the prime minister outlined in his speech serve as a guideline for further cooperation. He stressed, in particular, the need for every citizen to respect the law and to defend it, and in so doing he said we will be taking guarantees of safeguarding the rights of all people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Bridging gaps realistically

PERHAPS THE most important aspect of the open cabinet meeting held in Irbid Thursday was the revealing of gaps and loopholes in the process of achieving a comprehensive development of various sectors in Irbid governorate. The meeting showed that it is not due to failure by the government to carry out all projects required by the public but rather due to the lack of necessary funds for these projects that prevented their implementation so far.

No doubt the open meeting was a constructive move which aims at defining the needs of the citizens and their problems. Such dialogues cannot be successful unless they are based on firm ground of participation by citizens and close cooperation and mutual confidence between the citizens and the government.

The prime minister said that expanding public services without planning will not help to achieve a real improvement but would sap more resources and place a heavier burden on both the government and citizen. What is required, he said, is a constructive role by the citizens and a sharing of responsibility. The government, for its part, should in our view pursue the work of overall planning so that development can include rural as well as the urban regions.

Sincere efforts on the part of both sides is indeed a guarantee for further progress.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: A victory for Lebanese resistance

WE DIFFER in views with those who believe that the Israeli decision to carry out a partial withdrawal of forces from South Lebanon entails dangers for the Lebanese government. We believe that this is the first victory by the Lebanese people over the Israelis because the decision to partially withdraw resulted from the heavy losses in men and material which the Israelis had to sustain as a result of their occupation of South Lebanon. The withdrawal regardless of its size and dimension, represents a defeat for the Israeli military, which had hoped to seize the territory and to continue to rule with an iron fist.

The withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon was not a result of talks at Naqura or world pressure on the Israeli government, but rather a direct consequence of the Israeli casualties and should be regarded as a victory for the Lebanese resistance.

Now it becomes necessary for all the factions and warring militias of Lebanon to pool their resources and efforts for a final drive to kick the Israelis out of Lebanon for good. The task of liberating Lebanon lies with all the Lebanese people not only the government or the Lebanese Army.

Al Dustour: Israel seeks better position

IT IS rather interesting to make an appraisal of the positions of Israel and Lebanon at the Naqura talks which are due to be resumed next week. For its part, Israel will go to Naqura after it has made known its decision to carry out a partial withdrawal of its forces from South Lebanon. The Israeli negotiators are probably preparing a statement explaining the reason for taking such a step and more details of a plan on the situation as presented by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and endorsed by the Israeli cabinet. No doubt, Israel hopes that with a partial withdrawal, it will secure a better position for its soldiers, away from the densely populated areas in South Lebanon and the Lebanese resistance, and also will leave the territory for further factional wars among the different militias there.

For its part, Lebanon will be in a better position at Naqura than before, especially as the Lebanese Army has succeeded in deploying south of Beirut and along the coastal road leading south. This proves to the Israelis the ability of the Beirut government to have control over the militias and maintaining peace and security in the country.

No doubt, the Israelis will be facing a more complicated and difficult position because their withdrawal came as a result of attacks by the Lebanese resistance and a proof that it cannot hold on to the Lebanese territory.

A Lebanese rose is often smelt in Amman

By Musa Keilani

When a flower is planted in Beirut, its fragrance will be smelt in Amman in due time. This reflects the ultra special relationship between Jordan and Lebanon which existed for years. Jordanians always suffer the fall-out of what happens in Beirut, they share the repercussions of any political impact there as well as enjoying the outcome of any prosperity.

Geopolitical considerations created some sort of similarity between Jordanians and Lebanese, notwithstanding the French cultural identity there. In the early sixties, a graduate of the American University of Beirut (AUB) started, in his hometown of Karak, the first cells for a Falange movement, with only Christian Jordanians accepted as members. His early death vitiated the movement of any potential vital existence. The AUB, induced many Jordanians there to emulate the Lebanese political theorising, bringing into Jordanian and Palestinian intellectual societies the nucleus of a "cloned" Constantine Zureiq, Charles Malik and others.

In Jordan, one feels Lebanese daily bombings and militia fighting are followed and scrutinised intensely by the Druze at Al Azraq; by Christians at Karak, Madaba and Al-Husn; by Muslim fundamentalists in many refugee camps, as well as by other Jordanians of different shades and political colours. Many Jordanian communities are sharing the vicarious fighting and resistance with daily joys or sorrows, elation or depression.

It is no surprise that Jordanians who feel the ripples of Lebanese events daily try to forecast what will happen next. This week the Israeli forces started their unilateral pull-out of South Lebanon. Many people are worried that that move will not bring back total peace to troubled Lebanon. Many people feel that factional fighting will reemerge again leading to different possibilities.

The present de facto partition would be solidified into a permanent one creating three mini-states: the first for Christians, the second for Sunni Muslims and the third for both Shi'ite and Druze. The 1984 demographic estimates indicate that Maronite Christians are around one million. Other Christian communities are the 250,000 Greek Orthodox in Kura and Tripoli in the north, and the Greek Catholics and Protestants who are about 200,000. Armenians are nearly 170,000. So, Lebanese Christians are approximately 1.4 million.

The Shi'ite Muslims are 1.1 million, while the Sunni Lebanese Muslims are nearly 700,000. Each mini-state would have a population of roughly one million. Those three mini-states could be linked in a confederal federation in a way similar to Switzerland. The extreme Maronites support this formula, especially Mrs. Solange Bashir Gemayel, who still commands her Falange troops with some Israeli bodyguards to protect her. But the Druzes reject this scheme since the problem of Beirut can not be resolved and boundaries can not be demarcated. But those three states would become surrogates of external regional power, either Syrian or Israeli, and consequently the potential for violence will continue.

Some people hoped to solve the crisis by helping Lebanon to become a modern integral national state with a central authority to monopolise the access and use of force. A Lebanese central government would govern nationals as individual citizens rather than members of religious communities. But that requires each sect to relinquish its authority or that one sect impose its rule by force on all the others and form a central government. Recent developments revealed the impossibility of this hypothesis. Even the attempt to build up a Lebanese state army has not encouraged the militias to be Lebanon-oriented rather than faction-oriented.

One last possibility is a return to the status quo before 1975, when the civil war erupted. That signifies a return to the National Pact of 1943, which is the main reason for imbalance in 1985. The weak Lebanese government cannot endorse constitutional modifications to the 1943 National Pact or incorporate the sectarian problem into the new political arrangement. The basic fact remains that the 1932 census of 52 per cent Christians and 48 per cent Muslims cannot be the ruling criteria in 1985. There should be a redistribution of power to the satisfaction of the Muslims, who are now the majority. Would the Christians and Solange Falangists prefer an end to civil war for less power in Lebanon and in the army command?

The nature of the state in Lebanon breeds civil strife and tension. Since 1736, when the Maronites entered an official union with the Vatican and since the early seventeenth century when they defeated their Druze overlords and cultivated close relations with France, the land of Lebanon was destined to be the hotbed of ethnic and religious strife. It is an inherently latent ingredient in the nature of the state of Lebanon. Outside powers had always had to interfere, and withdraw, to interfere to impose a modicum of order, then to withdraw hopeless or hopeful. In the nineteenth century, the European powers did intervene, in 1958 the American Marines, in 1969 the Arab League and in 1982 Israel. Every time the extraneous forces intervened, more complication ensued and the Lebanese faloric became more tenuous.

Restructuring of the strategic power map by the two stronger neighbours, Syria and Israel led to the 10-year-old civil war and to the Syrian peace-keeping force in 1976 and to Israel's intermittent intervention in 1970 and massive occupation in 1982.

The Israeli withdrawal now is the fifth foreign troops withdrawal from Lebanon. There was the European intervention and withdrawal in 1841-1845, the second in 1860-1861, the third in 1941-1943 and the fourth by the American Marines in 1958. This time Lebanon has to see whether the withdrawal of foreign troops can impose a de facto partition of the country allowing some regional powers to attain their irreconcilable objectives and strategic goals. When each of the regional powers is a client to one of the rival superpowers means that a global perspective is added to the sectarian local conflict. The Lebanese religious and ethnic mosaic rejects the imposed boundaries and delineations.

In an area like the Middle East, where religion is a strong ideological force, the faith-system takes a paramount importance. In the case of Lebanon, there should be a fair distribution of power and authority between the Muslim majority and the Christian minority. A new national consensus has to be reached. In an area where the legitimisation of power is widely contested between a religious axiom and a nationalistic axiom, the Lebanese tragedy will not come to a final end by the unilateral withdrawal of Israeli forces. Nor will it come to a final end by a weak government amidst a number of buffer statelets. With Beirut as the federation's capital to three or four cantons, that will never negate the potential of a future sectarian conflict.

Only a strong Arab effort to support a Lebanese government to impose its fair balanced resolutions on all sects and sides can save Lebanon. To mobilise such a collective Arab effort, an Arab summit is needed. This could partially explain Jordan's keen endeavour to reconvene an Arab summit in March 1985. Nevertheless, a Lebanese rose has always its fragrance smelt in Jordan.

Major invasion to withdrawal-decision events

Long costly trip before Israel decided on its withdrawal

From Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The Israeli cabinet's decision to withdraw troops from Lebanon culminates a 31-month occupation which began with a welcome of flowers and rice from local Lebanese and ended with grenades and roadside bombs.

Following is a chronology of the major events which led to the withdrawal plan:

June 6, 1982, Israeli tanks cross the Lebanon border and head for the central Lebanese town of Beirut, so-called "Operation Peace for Galilee."

The cabinet announces the Israeli army will invade 40 kilometres north of Israel's border allegedly to oust Palestine Liberation Organisation guerrillas and end attacks on Israel. Defence Minister Ariel Sharon says the operation will take 12 to 24 hours.

June 7, Israeli troops occupy South Lebanon as far as Sidon,

about 40 kilometres from the border. Thousands of Palestinians are killed and captured.

Gen. Sharon and Prime Minister Menachem Begin promise to avoid conflict with Syria, but Israel clashes with Syrian troops in central Lebanon. Twenty-five Israelis were said to have been killed and 96 injured so far.

June 8-10, The Israeli Air Force attacks in the Bekaa Valley, reportedly destroying Syrian missile batteries and more than 85 Syrian planes in the biggest aerial dog fight ever in the Middle East. The government defeats a "détente" confidence motion, the first of three in the next nine months.

June 10, U.S. President Ronald Reagan demands a ceasefire.

June 11, Israeli troops reach the outskirts of Beirut, cutting off Syrian troops from the capital. Syria and Israel agree on a ceasefire. Israeli casualties: 91 dead, 554 wounded.

June 12, The Israelis take pos-

itions on southern outskirts of Beirut and link up with Christian falangists who control east Beirut.

June 13, First of many ceasefires collapses. Israel begins siege of west Beirut. U.S. envoy Philip Habib opens talks with Israelis and Lebanese aimed at ending the invasion.

July 5, Mr. Reagan says he will send in U.S. Marines to oversee guerrilla evacuation.

July 25, Israeli planes attack Palestinian refugee camp of Sabra on the southern outskirts of Beirut.

Sept. 14, Mr. Gemayel is killed by a bomb.

Sept. 16-18, Hundreds of Palestinian men, women and children are massacred by Lebanese Right-wing militiamen in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps under Israeli forces cover. More than 250,000 Israelis demonstrate in Tel Aviv demanding an independent inquiry into degree of Israel's responsibility.

Sept. 28, Cabinet agrees to in-

dependent inquiry.

Oct. 11 Official Israeli casualty toll: 368 dead, 2,383 wounded. Nov. 11, Israeli command post in Tyre collapses, 76 Israelis killed.

Dec. 30, Israelis and Lebanese begin talks on peace accord.

Feb. 2, 1983, A U.S. Marine confronts Israeli troops with pistol outside Beirut as U.S.-Israeli relations at low ebb.

Feb. 7, Kahan Commission releases report on Sabra and Shatila massacres, calls on Sharon to resign.

Feb. 10, A grenade kills anti-Sharon demonstrator outside Mr. Begin's office as cabinet votes to oust Sharon as defense minister.

May 17, Israel and Lebanon sign de-facto peace treaty, condemned by Syria.

Sept. 4, Defence minister Moshe Arens pulls Israeli troops back from central Lebanese mountains to the Awali River to cut

down on Israeli casualties. Nov. 4, Suicide truck bomber kills 28 Israelis in Tyre military compound. The attack follows similar ones on U.S. Marines and French troops in Beirut.

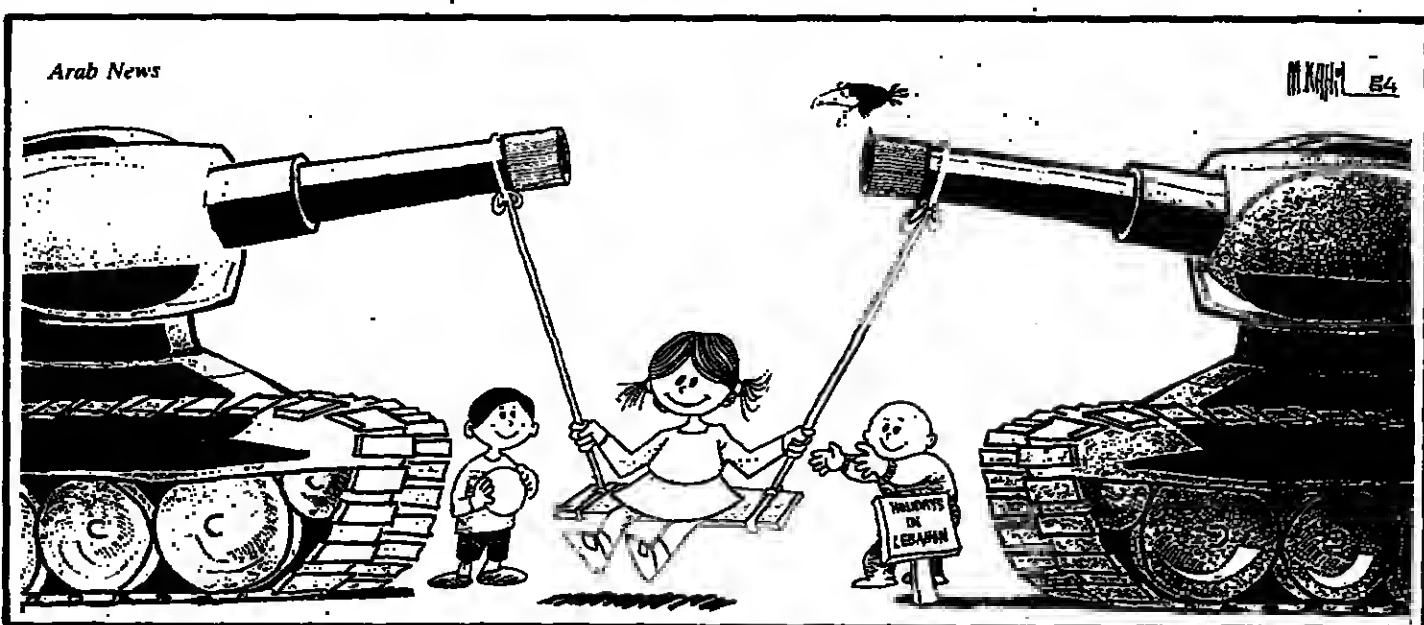
Nov. 17, PLO leader Yasser Arafat is evacuated from Tripoli as PLO splits between Syrian-backed and independent factions.

Feb. 16, 1984, Lebanese President Amin Gemayel scraps May 17 pact, seen as a victory for Syria. Shi'ites step up attacks on Israeli troops.

Nov. 8, United Nations sponsored Israeli-Lebanese talks on Israeli withdrawal begin in Naqura, South Lebanon.

Jan. 7, Israelis boycott talks, which are deadlocked over deployment of U.N. peacekeeping troops.

Jan. 14, Israeli cabinet announces a three-stage withdrawal to begin in five weeks and says it will resume Naqura talks.



Kanaks robbed of active leader

From Reuters

THIO, New Caledonia — The police killing of Eloi Machoro in the heartland of the independence movement in New Caledonia has robbed the indigenous Kanaks of one of their most active leaders in a campaign to shake off French rule.

While most Kanak leaders have in the past month kept a low profile and negotiated with French special envoy Edgard Pisani about the Pacific territory's future, Mr. Machoro, a 38-year-old former primary school teacher, has pursued a militant course.

In the area between the east coast town of Thio and the inland town of La Foa, where he was killed in a gun battle with police Friday night, his followers have blocked roads, strangling the local economy, and told white settlers to get out.

Many followed their advice. Thio's white population has dropped from 500 to fewer than 100 in the past few weeks and the Société Le Nickel plant mining a mountain of nickel near Thio has been closed for long periods.

Mr. Machoro, black, tall and bearded, has been the main org-

aniser of the chaos in his role as "minister for internal security" in the self-proclaimed independent state of Kanaky (land of the people).

Roadblocks thrown up by his followers stopped Europeans from driving to work at the mine and barred the trucking of nickel ore to the coast for transshipment by barge to Noumea for smelting and export.

As this is the main school holiday time in New Caledonia, many Caldoches (French settlers) have left the Thio area with their families for Noumea while Mr. Machoro's men continue their campaign of harassment.

Mr. Machoro turned to violence last Nov. 18 after assembly elections when the anti-independence Republican Party was elected to run the territory, under greater autonomy from France.

The Kanak leader told Reuters here last month that his actions against the settlers were as nothing compared with the Kanak's "century as prisoners of colonialism."

He was speaking while seated at a roadblock on the bonnet of a car

"borrowed" from the local hospital and clutching a long-handled axe with which he had led his men in chopping down trees to block roads.

These are the key facts about New Caledonia:

Population: 145,000, about 65,000 are indigenous Melanesians, known locally as Kanaks, 50,000 are European settlers, 10,000 are immigrants from Wallis and Futuna Islands and the remainder are other immigrants (from Tahiti, Indonesia, Vietnam, French Caribbean, Reunion).

Area: New Caledonia is composed of several islands which cover an area of 19,100 square kilometres. The biggest island covers 16,750 square kilometres, and is one of the largest in the Pacific. The Isle of Pines, the Loyalty and Nuon groups form the rest of the French overseas territory. The group lies in the South Pacific between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Equator, 1,500 kilometres east of Australia and 20,000 kilometres from France.

Capital: Noumea, on the south coast of the main island (population about 55,000, 1982 estimate, mostly Europeans).

Defence (1980 estimate): Noumea was an important base for U.S. and allied forces in the Pacific war and France has stressed its strategic need to keep troops in the territory.

Economy (1980): Gross domestic product (GDP) 69.14 billion French Pacific francs (\$500 million). Per capita income: not available.

Main industries: The economy's mainstays are mining, tourism, fishing, forestry, agriculture, exports valued at 33.4 billion cfp (\$230 million) in 1981. New Caledonia is the world's third largest nickel producer after Canada and the Soviet Union. Nickel and other metal exports were worth 30.9 billion cfp (\$210 million) in 1981, coffee and copra exports were worth 2.5 billion cfp (\$17 million) in 1981. France is the main trading partner.

Modern history: A French colony since 1853, it became a French overseas territory in 1946. Inhabitants hold French citizenship.

Demands for independence from the indigenous Melanesians led to growing unrest and sparked violent clashes.

Saudi-Bahraini causeway highlights Gulf Arab ties

By John Owen-Davies
 Reuter

BAHRAIN — One of the world's most expensive causeways, will open in December, linking the island state of Bahrain with Saudi Arabia: a major example of closer political, economic and defence ties being forged by Gulf Arab countries.

Saudi Arabia is footing a bill totalling about \$1 billion for the 25-kilometre causeway — including five box-girder road bridges and a man-made central island — constructed by Ballast Nedam of the Netherlands.

The four-lane causeway will provide immediate security and economic benefits for Bahrain, a regional trade and banking centre, and end its geographical isolation from its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Work on the causeway began in 1981, when Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates formed the GCC in the wake of Iran's Islamic Revolution.

Diplomats say the causeway will help minimise the risk of any foreign aggression against Bahrain and possible threats to Saudi Arabia's east coast oil fields as a result.

"The causeway could quickly become a conduit for Saudi tanks and other weapons," one diplomat said. The link can take some of the heaviest vehicles in use today.

Bahrain relies on Saudi Arabia for air cover as part of GCC defence cooperation. The causeway will be less than a minute in flying time from Saudi air bases, while the central island will have two harbours for coast guard vessels.

Construction of the causeway has fuelled speculation that Bahrain's lifestyle will be made to conform more closely with that of Saudi Arabia, where alcohol is banned and women are not allowed to drive cars.

But Bahrain's information minister, Tariq Almoayyed, told Reu-

ters the island's policy would not change "in any respect" as a direct consequence of the causeway.

The causeway reflected "a political will" by the two governments to forge closer economic and social links, he said.

Bahrain has a population of 350,000, while close to 10 million people live in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Almoayyed said Bahrain's industries, including tourism, would benefit from the causeway which is capable of taking up to 30,000 vehicles daily.

Bahrain's tourist industry is expected to benefit from an influx of Saudis and of people who now use regular air links.

Estate agents say some Saudis plan to build holiday homes near the Bahraini side of the causeway and that land prices in the area have risen by about 25 per cent in the past year.

In theory, it should take about 30 minutes to an hour to cross the causeway. This compares with considerably more time to make the short plane hop, including checking in and customs formalities, between Bahrain and the Saudi city of Dhahran.

Ballast Nedam, which won the \$75-million-dollar contract to construct the causeway from Saudi Arabia's Finance and National Economy Ministry, last year received a further 90-million-dollar order from the ministry to build the customs facilities.

The company is also bidding with about 14 other firms for a contract worth about \$300 million to build a total of 50 kilometres of approach roads at either end of the causeway.

During building of the causeway, Ballast Nedam had a peak workforce of about 1,400, including Europeans, Filipinos, South Koreans and Thais. Nearly 100 support ships have been used.

The five bridges, covering about 12.5 kilometres of the causeway, are supported by hollow concrete piles driven deep into the seabed.



Talking straight
Marwan Muasher

Detribalisation: Towards the rule of one law

THE ISSUE of tribalism and tribal practices in Jordan is certainly older than the modern state itself. Ever since Jordan embarked on an ambitious social development programme however, the question of how great a role tribal practices play in Jordanian affairs has always been hotly debated. Recently, the subject was brought to the limelight again by the Upper House of Parliament, where many senators rejected these practices and accused the government of protecting them despite the repealing of the tribal law in 1976.

The government on its part denied those charges. Anyone living in this country, knows that the government's claim is "shaky at best. The government may not have broken any laws, but its implicit support of tribal practices are abundant in Jordan, and that they are followed not only by bedouins but also by many of urbanite, educated Jordanian families. It is also a fact that there are strong forces in our society opposing the abolition of these practices,

undoubtedly by a decree or a law that lacks either the will or ability of follow-up actions.

Advantages, disadvantages, origins of tribalism, and reasons of why it is so dominant in Jordan are all subjects that have also been beaten to death. It is not my intent to give a tutorial on the subject; my concern is with a way of life that has survived the modern social transformation Jordan has gone through, when it has at least started to recede in other neighbouring countries, particularly in such places as Saudi Arabia, where one would think tribal practices would be at their zenith.

Several opinions have tried to cite the recent elections in Jordan as an indication that tribalism is finally on its way out. Any such evidence is inconclusive at best. As a layman, I read all this analysis in the paper about the fall of tribalism, and then a few lines down I am confronted with three announcements on tribal "truces" to settle feuds. Then

someone hurries to say that tribalism is dying in Jordan?

We are confronted with many arguments by those who do not wish to see an end to such practices, playing to the tune that Jordan cannot survive without tribalism, that in fact it is a "positive" force in society.

We are told that tribalism has many good merits, that should not be abolished by "modern" ideas which seek to destroy the family structure. We are told that generosity, coherence and care for the family are all by-products of the tribal structure.

While the argument plays skillfully to people's emotions, it fails to justify why the tribe should be the only source of "goodness" in society. The conviction that goodness can only trickle down to the individual from his tribe is very dangerous, leaving people with feelings of deep guilt anytime they want to get rid of the rigid tribal structure and its set ways. In other words, one should not see the denial of tribal practices

as a condemnation of the family or an attempt to destroy it. It is simply a rejection of a structure that sets itself equal to, or even above, the law of the land.

We are told that the country is not ready to do away with tribal law, but it is one thing to get it implemented. That argument bears many similarities to the argument we use with regard to democracy. Yes, the country is not ready to abolish tribal practices, and it never will be if people do not do anything about it. What is important is to agree on the need to abolish these practices, and the rest can come through an evolutionary process of education. It is important to realise that these are the eighties, not the twenties, not the fifties, not even the seventies. Great changes have occurred since the State of Jordan was created. We have evolved from a desert confederacy of tribes to a modern country with a law and a constitution. If tribalism still has a place in the social

context of affairs, it certainly should be denied any such place in our legal conceptualisation of the country. Jordanians cannot be governed by dual, often contradictory, laws.

We are told that belonging to the tribe is healthy because the tribe is part of the country. The problem is that to many, belonging to the tribe stops right there. I am not against belonging to the tribe as long as it is a part of a larger belonging to the country and the land.

This, to me, is the major argument against tribalism. I wish to see people proud because they are part of a professional organisation, not because they are members of a big tribe. I wish to see people proud because of their own personal achievements, not those of their cousins. And above all, I wish to see people proud because they are Jordanians, not only because of their surnames.

As one senator put it last week, tribalism is indeed an "obstacle in the path of our national security". It is an obstacle

in the way of a healthy feeling of belonging to the country, with all the connotations this belonging has to offer.

This is the major question Jordanians have to answer in their minds. Should we continue to try to live with dual laws and dual allegiances, or should we reconcile the two in such a way that one is part of the other, but not equal to it? If we agree that allegiance to the land and the country is foremost, then we have to re-evaluate our social structure such that all other allegiances fall within the context of one big allegiance.

This cannot be done overnight. One of the first things to reassess is our education system, where a tribal value system is constantly over-emphasised at the expense of a national sense of belonging. We learn more today in our schools about the great Arab poets Antara Bin Shaddad and Imru' Al-Qais, Al-Dawla than we do about contemporary poets like Mustafa Wahbi Al-Jal and Nazek Al-Malaika.

One should never lose track of one's history, as long as one does not keep too embedded in it. We need not only learn about how our great-grandfathers lived, but also of the dreams our contemporary leaders had, and the visions we have of where our society should head.

It remains to be said that in the absence of political organisations through which citizens can channel their concerns, the tribe offers a secure haven to many who find in it a lobbying force to achieve certain aims. It very well could be that the process of "detribalisation" is tightly knitted to that of "derationalisation" in Jordan. Both should be evolutionary in nature, both should be started on a systematic basis, and both require hard work on the part of the citizens and government alike. Both have one goal in mind, that in the end, all men and women, even though not born equal, should be treated as though they were, under the law, the one law.

Smart and sassy Casey bolsters staff morale at CIA

By David Ignatius

WASHINGTON — Some years ago, William Casey wanted to buy a fancy house here that already was promised to the Japanese embassy. The owner, a genteel society woman, worried about what she would say to the Japanese.

"Tell them," Mr. Casey replied, "remember Pearl Harbor." The brash Mr. Casey didn't get the house.

That anecdote, told by one of Mr. Casey's close friends, illustrates the volatile personality of the current director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He is quickwitted and aggressive, but he is also impulsive, with an arrogant streak that often gets him in trouble.

As CIA director, Mr. Casey has demonstrated that same mix of good and bad traits. He arrived four years ago hoping to restore the agency's morale, budget and public image after a damaging decade. He has done well on the first two goals, reviving enthusiasm at the CIA and giving it probably the largest proportionate budget growth of any agency. But he has failed to improve the CIA's image with Congress and with the public — and may even have made it worse — largely because of his own mistakes.

Mr. Casey slipped on the banana peel of "covert action" — specifically the CIA's "covert" war against the government of Nicaragua. He plunged ahead, despite warnings from his own aides that the programme couldn't be kept secret and would blow up in the CIA's face. When those predictions came true, Mr. Casey made things worse by mishandling

his already strained relationship with Congress.

"What Bill did wrong was to let the agency get back into large-scale covert action, which isn't covert action at all, but an unofficial form of warfare," argues Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee and one of Mr. Casey's harshest critics.

A leading member of the House Intelligence Committee sums up: "Mr. Casey deserves credit for improving morale at the agency. But he has focused the agency on the wrong thing — covert action. And I don't have any doubt that the image of the CIA today is as bad as it's been in recent years in Congress, and probably the country."

Irreverent New Yorker

Mr. Casey, a New Yorker who is irreverent towards official Washington, isn't wild about Congress, either. Exasperated by what he viewed as unfair congressional criticism, he joked to a friend recently: "The best thing about Washington is that it's only an hour from New York." Although he remains wary of Congress, aides say he now is trying hard to improve relations.

For all his failings, the cantankerous Mr. Casey is a colourful personality in a generally gray administration. He is a compulsive reader who raves through several books in an evening. He has an Irishman's temper, with strong loyalties to his friends and long grudges against his enemies. And he is a notorious mumbler who speaks in gruff sentence fragments that often are unintelligible.

"Casey gives the impression, because he mumbles, that he has a

messy mind," says former CIA Director Richard Helms. "But he doesn't have a messy mind at all. He has a tidy mind. And he has the street smarts of a lot of New Yorkers."

OSS and SEC

A CIA colleague once described Mr. Casey, only half in jest, as "an American colossus." He is certainly an American success story, a self-made millionaire who got where he is by hustling, playing politics and taking risks.

As a young lawyer, he joined the wartime Office of Strategic Services and ran spies into Europe. Later, he made a fortune as a tax lawyer by publishing books about tax laws. Still later, he was chairman of the Nixon-era Securities and Exchange Commission. Finally, he managed President Reagan's 1980 presidential campaign.

Mr. Casey brought the same hard-charging, risk-taking style to the CIA, and it caused him problems. The agency, still struggling to recover from the traumas of the 1970s, was in many ways a frightened and self-protective institution when he arrived. It wanted public and congressional support, and that meant avoiding controversy. Mr. Casey, in contrast, wanted to mobilise the agency and test the limits of its congressional mandate.

The new director plunged into his job with boyish enthusiasm — zapping off daily suggestions to CIA analysts, touring CIA stations overseas, and taking a personal hand in planning covert-action programmes. In his eagerness to revive the agency, remarked one colleague, Mr. Casey sometimes acted "like a first-year

case officer."

His greatest successes at the CIA probably have been in improving the analytical side of the agency, known as the directorate of intelligence. He told a friend in 1981 that he knew how to produce good intelligence estimates because he had earned a fortune doing the same thing in his tax guides — putting complex data into concise and readable form.

Mr. Casey started by reorganising the intelligence directorate along mainly geographical lines, so that analysts studying the Soviet economy and the Soviet leadership worked in the same section. He increased the quantity and, by most accounts, the quality of CIA reports. And he installed Robert Gates, a widely respected young CIA officer, as deputy director for intelligence.

Some of the analytical changes were simple. The CIA never had bothered, for example, to keep files of each analyst's work, so it was impossible to assess whether an analyst's predictions tended, over time, to be accurate. Messrs. Casey and Gates started keeping files.

The CIA still makes mistakes. It correctly forecast some major events in Lebanon, from the Israeli invasion in 1982 to Syria's later intervention, but it failed to provide specific warnings about the bombs that destroyed the American embassy and Marine headquarters in Beirut in 1983. It correctly forecast that Yuri Andropov would succeed Leonid Brezhnev as Soviet leader, but it failed to predict the later succession of Konstantin Chernenko.

Under Messrs. Casey and Gates, analysts are at least trying harder. The intelligence com-

munity produced 75 inter-agency estimates in 1983, compared with about 12 in 1980, and the agency embarked on about 800 long-term research projects, studying everything from likely Soviet weapons in the year 2000 to the history of Shiite Islam in the 12th century.

Mr. Casey also has become a kind of editor-in-chief for his analysts — sending back estimates with which he disagrees — a practice that has upset some of his staff. Last year, for example, Mr. Casey reportedly sent an estimate about political stability in Mexico back for revision nine times, prompting the unhappy analyst to leave the CIA when his contract expired.

What Mr. Casey didn't like about the Mexico estimate was that it discounted the likelihood of political upheaval there; the CIA director saw a greater risk of turmoil spreading throughout Central America if the U.S. didn't adopt tough policies. Mr. Casey's critics interpret the incident as an example of efforts to politicise the agency. His defenders argue he was trying to ensure the agency wasn't caught flat-footed by change, as it was in 1978 by the Iranian revolution.

A bad start

Criticism of Mr. Casey goes back to the days when he first took over the agency. He quickly got in trouble — with Congress and with the CIA old-boy network — by appointing Reagan campaign aide Max Hugel as head of the directorate of operations, the most sensitive part of the CIA. Mr. Casey wanted to shake up the clandestine service by appointing an outsider. He also hoped Mr.

Hugel, a successful businessman, could work with American corporations and other private organisations to provide new forms of unofficial cover for CIA officers overseas.

But the appointment soon turned sour. Mr. Hugel resigned amid charges that he had been involved in unethical stock deals, and there soon was a congressional investigation of Mr. Casey's own finances. The CIA director grumbled privately that the investigation of him was outrageous.

Underlying the congressional criticism of Mr. Casey was the fear of politicisation. The charge probably was inevitable, given Mr. Casey's close relationship with President Reagan and the fact that he wore two hats — as the president's chief intelligence officer and as a senior policy adviser. Critics worried that the director would manipulate CIA estimates and covert-action capabilities to support his own policy views.

Pros and cons

Mr. Casey's gung-ho philosophy led him into the covert war against Nicaragua's Marxist Sandinista government, and a damaging confrontation with Congress. The Central American campaign was in many ways Mr. Casey's private war — conceived and directed by him. He came back from one 1983 field trip to Honduras boasting that the agency, with only 20 or so American intelligence officers in the field, was creating an aggressive guerrilla army.

The Central America programme was controversial within the CIA. Some officials were enthusiastic, developing elaborate

battle plans for the "Contras" to mount a two-prong attack from north and south and split Nicaragua in two. But Mr. Casey's own deputies — first Adm. Bobby R. Inman and later John McMahon — were skeptical.

In late 1982, Mr. McMahon warned Mr. Casey that the programme couldn't be kept secret and should be transferred from the CIA to the Pentagon. Mr. Casey allowed the deputy director to make his case to the National Security Council, but the move was rejected. So the programme stayed at the CIA.

The covert-aid programme exploded last year following disclosure that the CIA-backed rebels had been mining the harbours of Nicaragua. In the ensuing uproar, a skittish Congress cut off funds for the Contras. The congressional mood soured even more in October after the CIA admitted it had prepared a training manual for the Contras concerning assassination and encouraging them to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

A loss of trust

Mr. Casey lost congressional support partly because key members of Congress stopped trusting him. In their view, the CIA director failed to brief the congressional intelligence committees adequately about the Nicaraguan mining operation — thereby violating the system of congressional oversight that was established in the 1970s.

For example: At a briefing in January 1984 about the CIA mining operation, a senior CIA official told the House Intelligence Committee that the agency wasn't

mining Nicaraguan harbours. It was, he admitted, mining Nicaraguan anchorages. This sort of evasiveness lost Mr. Casey and the CIA many friends.

Mr. Casey now concedes to friends that he may have botched his relations with Congress, partly because he was peeved by the 1981 congressional investigation of his finances. Aides say he is trying hard to mend fences.

"I would rate his relations with Congress as a disaster," says a former top CIA official. He worries that because of the covert war in Central America and his feud with Congress, Mr. Casey may have damaged irreparably his reputation as CIA director.

The recent wave of bad publicity about covert action, reminiscent of the congressional exposure of the 1970s, upsets CIA officials because it undermines support for the agency's other activities. The modern CIA, they emphasise, is largely a collection of scientists, analysts and technicians — with far more Ph.D.s than dirty tricksters. Officials say covert-action programmes as a whole account for about 5 percent of the CIA budget and only 1.5 percent of total U.S. intelligence spending.

Mr. Casey has won a promise from President Reagan that he can keep his post during the second term, but some of his friends doubt he will stay four more years. And in thinking about his eventual successor, Mr. Casey may have made an important judgment about the lessons of his own stormy tenure as CIA director.

He has decided, according to one friend, that the post probably should go to a professional intelligence officer — The Wall Street Journal.

Perfume or food: Which smells better to the Comorians?

The growing of a key perfume essence is hardly enriching the Comoros Islands of the Indian Ocean. In fact, it is causing deforestation and erosion. Farmers are beginning to opt for food.

By Michael Griffin

COMOROS ISLANDS — The perfume dabbed behind the ears of the fashionable in Paris and New York is eroding topsoil on far-away islands in the Indian Ocean.

"Ylang-Ylang" (Cananga odorata) is a high-grade, sweet-smelling essence which provides the topnotes in Revlon's "Charlie" and Chanel's classic "N°5" perfumes. Introduced to European perfumers in 1864, ylang-ylang grows in the moist, volcanic soils of the Comoros Islands, Reunion and Madagascar. Something like jasmine, it almost constitutes a perfume in itself — ethereal, flowery and fruity.

Pruned trees yield 20-30 kilograms of flowers throughout the year, but the main harvest takes place between April and June. Women and children, slung with baskets, collect the limp, yellow blossoms before the sun is high.

The oil is distilled by steam. The highest grade, known as "Extra", is drawn off after 90 minutes; it takes 350-400 kilograms of freshly picked flowers to produce a full kilogramme (2.2 pounds) of oil. The lowest grade, which is used in the manufacture of soap and cosmetics, takes over 13 hours to distill.

The hub of the ylang-ylang trade — valued at only \$3.5 million per year worldwide — is the Comoros Islands, a tiny Islamic republic in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of Mozambique. In 1983, the three islands exported 74 tonnes of oil to France, the major buyer; 60 per cent of that

was produced by small-holder farmers with their own backyard distilleries.

But with limited arable land and the highest population density in all Africa — more than 200 people per square kilometre — the islands have a high food import bill. Cash crops, such as cloves and vanilla, cover nearly 35 per cent of the country's good farmland, so more than 40 per cent of the calories consumed on the islands must be shipped in, most of it in the form of rice.

In the Comoros, as elsewhere in the developing world, the rising price of food and essential commodities is having a serious impact on living conditions. But unlike tea-pickers or coffee growers, those who supply the perfume industry are too few in number to affect the market price of their crops.

Though food continues to grow dearer, the price of ylang-ylang oil has remained almost unchanged for the last decade. Many smallholders have begun to uproot their trees to make way for manioc and bananas, which grow well in the volcanic soil. Even on the large, French-owned estates, as much as 60 per cent of the trees have been destroyed as landless Comorians move in and build makeshift settlements.

Low returns for the smallholder have also led to a decline in the quality of ylang-ylang.

Comorian women are paid as little as one French franc (U.S. 10 cents) per kilo, and a practised picker can only bring 15 kilograms (33 pounds) to the distillery at the end of the day. So damaged flowers, which cause



"You get it from ylang-ylang blossoms by squeezing the inhabitants of the Comoros Islands"

sound ones to ferment in the basket, and green ones, which contain less oil, are slipped in by the picker to make up the weight and earn a few extra sous.

In French-ruled Mayotte nearby, which produced 22 tonnes last year, output is also falling. Under French law, pickers are guaranteed a higher wage than in the Comoros. "Societe Bambou", the Indian Ocean's largest grower, has now been forced to abandon its 400-hectare plantation on Mayotte due to high labour costs. One grower said he expected

the decline in Ylang-Ylang output to accelerate in the next few years. The majority of the trees throughout the islands have now entered their middle age, when blossom yields begin to decline.

For many Comorians, that would be no bad thing, for ylang-ylang has earned itself a reputation as a sweet-smelling villain here. Not only does it occupy land which could be better used to boost local food production, but the distilleries are rapidly consuming what little forest cover remains on the islands.

The high cost of oil has meant that all but the largest distilleries depend on fuelwood to produce export-quality essence. The population explosion, coupled with the industry's insatiable demand for timber, resulted in a 44 per cent loss of wooded areas between 1969 and 1974 and 69 per cent on Anjouan, the most densely populated of the islands.

Although the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has set up experimental solar-powered distilleries, these have not proved

cost-effective. So deforestation will continue on the islands steep slopes, with the resulting rapid erosion of the thin topsoil.

Importers like Franghian of Paris, which controls 35 per cent of the French ylang-ylang market, lament the low prices offered by the perfumers and have begun to predict shortages of the natural essence in the near future. The small farmers in the Comoros, if forced to choose food or flowers, will doubtless pick the one they can eat — Earthscan feature.

'Dallas-sur-Loire' boosts French pride

By Claire Roseberg Reuter

PARIS (R) — Intent on beating the Americans at their own game, French Television has launched its answer to the chart-topping U.S. series "Dallas".

The launch of "Chateaufallion" — a make-believe town somewhere in France where rich people live, love and hate — last week was accompanied by warm French self-congratulation.

"A page has been turned," said an editorial writer in the daily newspaper Le Matin. "... now we have our very own Dallas, we can dream of outdoing American television."

Bent on outshining the show once singled out by Culture Minister Jack Lang as a prime example of lowbrow U.S. television, the French have sought to make Chateaufallion big and classy.

With more than 200 characters — who swirl the rich wines and foods in the garb and surroundings of a Dallas "A la Francaise" — its cast is ten times that of its U.S. model.

Yet with the latest light video equipment, each episode of the 26-episode series costs only one third of the one million dollars Hollywood spends on each chapter of Dallas.

The Texan ranch of Southfork has been replaced by a Chateaufallion on the banks of the Loire and the Ewing dynasty by the sprawling Berg family. The Ewings' sworn enemies — the Barnes — find their counterparts in a Yugoslav emigre family called Kovacic.

The head of the French dynasty, 70-year-old press baron Antonin Berg, has no petrol but plenty of

power. A staunch conservative with an undying allegiance to the late General De Gaulle, he professes an equal commitment to the free press.

His all-powerful newspaper La Depeche Republique unveils graft and corruption, and makes and breaks politicians and businessmen. The series unravels the personal ambitions and weaknesses of the Berg family and its reporter-employees.

To replace the patriarch, who dies in episode six, the producers of Chateaufallion wheel out Berg's divorcee daughter Florence, who bears a striking resemblance to Dallas' Sue Ellen.

And like Dallas' J.R., Florence emerges as an iron-fisted manager with personal problems on the side, most notably when her cabinet minister lover commits suicide over a scandal.

Writers of the series, produced by the state-owned TV network Antenne-2, drew their inspiration from political scandals that erupted in the three years preceding the election of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand in 1981.

"Chateaufallion portrays a profoundly corrupt ruling class. Those who with money wield power," said leading conservative commentator Dominique Jamet. The series is generally viewed as a breakthrough in French television with the potential to snatch money-making markets from the Americans.

It was irritation over the popularity of Dallas and another U.S. series "Dynasty" that prompted Pierre Desgraupes, then director of Antenne-2, to plan the production of Chateaufallion.

Italian claims first world games gold

PARIS (R) — Italy's Julie Salace won the first gold medal of the inaugural World Indoor Games Friday when she spreadeagled the field in the women's three-kilometres walk for the easiest of victories.

Salace strode away from the remainder of the 10-strong field to win in a time of 12 minutes 53.42 seconds. It was the second occasion she has beaten 15 minutes and only the third ever that the mark has been bettered.

China's Hong Yan was second in 13:05.56 and Canadian Ann Peet took the bronze in 13:06.97. The women's 60 metres hurdles gave an early hint of some promising clashes between Western and East European athletes, denied a chance to compete in last year's Los Angeles Olympics because of the Soviet-led boycott.

Bulgaria's Guinka Zug-

ortcheva, bronze medalist at the 1983 World Championships in Helsinki, won her heat in 8.16 seconds and looked well in control throughout.

The Soviet Union's Vera Aki-mova was equally impressive when she won her heat in the same time but there was an upset when American Olympic finalist Pam Page failed to qualify after fading to fourth in Aki-mova's heat.

The U.S. hopes now rest with Stephanie Higower who could not make the Olympic team. Higower finished third in the first heat won by France's Anne Piquereau in the fastest time of 8.12,

Celtic fans banned from European match at home

BERNE (R) — The European Football Union (UEFA) Friday ordered Scotland's Celtic to ban the public from attending their next home match in any of the three European club competitions.

The punishment follows crowd trouble during Celtic's replayed Cupwinners' Cup match with Austria's Rapid Vienna in Manchester on Dec. 12. That game was ordered after crowd disturbances during the original fixture in Glasgow.

UEFA also ruled that Celtic's next home leg could not be broadcast live on television and clips for news bulletins must not exceed three minutes.

A UEFA spokesman said: "We want to punish the spectators."

Celtic were also fined 50,000 Swiss francs (\$20,000) for the violence during the second round, second leg replay.

Rapid won 1-0 to advance 4-1 on aggregate but goalkeeper Her-

bert Feurer and goalscorer Peter Paucit were attacked in separate incidents by individual supporters. Both attackers have since been jailed.

But the punishment falls well short of what many British commentators had expected. It was widely predicted Celtic would be banned from between two and four years from playing in all European competitions.

The game was replayed in Manchester after Celtic won the original Nov. 7 match 3-0 in Glasgow to reach the quarter-finals. But the Austrians claimed a bottle thrown from the stands had injured one of their players after they had used both their substitutes.

UEFA originally rejected Rapid's claim that the match result be reversed, fining the Austrians 15,000 Swiss francs (\$6,300) and Celtic 12,000 Swiss francs (\$5,000).

Rapid then appealed and

UEFA ordered the match to be replayed, simultaneously increasing the fine on the Austrians to 30,000 Swiss francs (\$12,600).

Celtic are the third British club to be ordered to play behind closed doors in European competition. West Ham, in 1980, and Aston Villa, two years later, were similarly punished.

Celtic chairman Desmond White admitted he felt "considerably relieved" by the ruling, although he did not dismiss the possibility of an appeal.

The club have three days in which to consider appealing but White said in London: "I cannot make any comment on this matter until I have contacted the rest of my directors. After that we will have to meet to consider the full implications."

"I am obviously delighted that there is no ban, particularly since so many people in the media seem to think that would be our fate."

Political, football rituals coincide in U.S.

PALO ALTO, California (R) — Two classic U.S. rituals coincide on Sunday when a former sports announcer, Ronald Reagan, is sworn in as president and two teams clash in the climax of the American football season, the Superbowl.

Perhaps sensing he cannot compete with this sporting extravaganza, Reagan, who was a baseball commentator before Hollywood and politics claimed him, has delayed the ceremonial part of his re-inauguration until the next day.

That allows him, like the rest of the nation, to focus on the action in Palo Alto in what promises to be one of the most absorbing contests in the 19-year history of the Bowl.

Justice has been served this year as the teams that have won through to the championship — the San Francisco 49ers and the Miami Dolphins — are seen as the best to be produced in the 1984-85 season by the 28-side National Football League.

The Dolphins lost only two of their 18 pre-Bowl games and the 49ers failed just once.

Miami's star is Dan Marino, who is only 23 but has already set records for the number of passes he has thrown to score touchdowns, which are worth six points each.

Both sides are blessed with exceptional athletes in the crucial role of quarterback, a player whose importance is recognised by the fact that he can command a salary in the range of one million dollars a year.

Marino's claim to be the best quarterback in the league is hotly contested by fans of San Francisco's supremely self-confident Joe Montana, who is named after a U.S. state but looks assured enough to run a country.

As well as having outstanding quarterbacks, Miami and San

Francisco are credited with having finesse — although such a quality seems odd for so violent a game, in which players wear grotesque padding that makes them look like extras in a science fiction movie.

Neither team indulges much in what football referees call "unnecessary roughness," a term that non-experts think would be appropriate to describe the entire game.

The 49ers are seen as having what amounts to home town advantage because the Stanford University stadium in Palo Alto where the Superbowl will be played is only a few km from the team's own candlestick park in nearby San Francisco.

That city has long been gripped by Superbowl fever. San Franciscans are football fanatics, perhaps because the local baseball team is abysmally bad.

Fans in both cities are putting their money where their mouths are. An estimated \$500 million in bets, legal and illegal, were wagered on last year's Superbowl in Tampa, Florida, and that figure will easily be topped this year, according to football security official Warren Welsh.

San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein is making a well-publicised bet of food with her Miami counterpart. She is offering

enough crab, sourdough bread and California wine for 12 people if San Francisco lose.

She made similar bets with the mayors of New York and Chicago over the last two games that the 49ers played, and as a result she won 12 pastrami and corned beef sandwiches and 12 porterhouse steaks from the beaten cities.

Tickets for the 83,000-seat Stanford stadium are worth many times their weight in gold, despite the low price of that metal.

Scalpers are asking — and getting — up to \$1,200 per ticket. John Corazzini, a baker from nearby San Mateo, adopted a novel approach in his quest for tickets. Instead of money, he offered his stock of the much-sought cabbage patch dolls.

Interest in the game is so strong that ABC-TV, the network televising the game, is charging advertisers one million dollars for a one-minute commercial aired during the game, and nearly all the available time has been snapped up.

The U.S. Department of Defence, which is supposed to be tightening its belt to help reduce the budget deficit, ran into criticism when it paid \$525,000 to broadcast a 30-second recruitment commercial during the game.

Curry begins quest for boxing supremacy

LONDON (R) — Don Curry has broadcast his message and all but Britain's Colin Jones, who challenges him for the World Boxing Association welterweight title Saturday, have received it loud and clear.

The articulate American, 23, who once took elocution lessons in readiness for a career in radio, now wants to become the world's greatest boxing champion. And he doesn't care who knows it.

A convincing victory over the courageous Welshman in Birmingham Saturday night is the first step in the American's bid for supremacy.

After that his plans include a

unification bout with World Boxing Council (WBC) Champion Milton McCrory before moving up a division or two to challenge his other compatriots Thomas Hearns and Marvin Hagler.

But Curry's ambitious plans could come cascading down around him if Jones springs a surprise victory before his own adoring fans. Jones is convinced he can do it and his manager, Eddie Thomas, says Curry is "going to be hit like he's never been hit before."

This will be Jones' third and final attempt to lift the world crown. And it will be by far his most important.

Finns to increase doping controls

HELSINKI (R) — Finland's sports authorities are to increase doping controls and make spot checks on athletes in training as well as competition, a leading official said in an interview published Friday.

The moves follow a doping scandal in which top runner Martti Vainio forfeited his Olympic 10,000 metres silver medal after a positive test for anabolic steroids in Los Angeles last year.

Chief national athletics coach Antti Laanamaa resigned in November after admitting responsibility for the cover-up of an earlier positive dope test by Vainio at the Rotterdam marathon last April.

Carl-Olof Homen, President of Finland's National Olympic Committee, said in an interview published by daily newspapers Friday that Finnish sports organisations had been authorised to increase the number of tests, which would be conducted anywhere and anytime, including the training season.


"The greatly-increased number of tests are necessary partly for credibility, but also with a thought to all the thousands of sportsmen who have never used drugs," he added.

Budd returns to U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — South African-born Briton Zola Budd competes in a 10,000 metres road race in Phoenix, Arizona, on March 2, the promoter said Friday.

It will be her first appearance in the United States since her controversial clash with Mary Decker at last year's Los Angeles Olympics.


But Decker will be absent. She withdrew a few weeks before Budd entered, race director Fred Moore said.



NEW RATES

for the month of January, 1985

Foreign Currencies	Interest Rate%
U.S. DOLLAR	7%
STERLING POUND	7.5%
DEUTSCHEMARK	4%
FRENCH FRANC	7.5%

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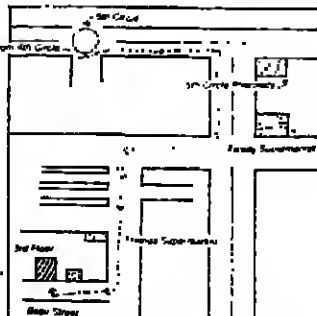
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Mitterrand arrives in Noumea today

New Caledonia's Kanaks to take tougher stand

NOUMEA (R) — Black militants in New Caledonia say they will take a tougher stand on demands for independence when French President Francois Mitterrand visits the territory Saturday and insist that freedom from Paris is not negotiable.

As Mitterrand flew half-way around the world in a bid to bring peace to the troubled territory, the leader of the militant Kanaks told a news conference Friday they would take a firmer stance with France and considered sovereignty for Kanaky (land of the people) to be non-negotiable.

"After that certain things could be talked about," declared Jean-Marie Tjibaou, head of the "provisional" government sworn in by the Kanaks on Dec. 1.

"We will ask Mitterrand how many more deaths he wants," Mr. Tjibaou added in a reference to 20 killings in the past two months.

He said French authorities were holding 87 Kanaks while 14 had been "murdered" by white set-

tlers.

"This is a debt the colonial power must repay,"

Mr. Tjibaou indicated that Mr. Mitterrand's surprise one-day visit — seen in France as one of the riskiest political ventures of his career — was essential to keep alive talks on independence.

The visit "is a new fact and we are prepared to meet him," he said.

Mr. Tjibaou appeared to be referring to the possibility of settlers being given guarantees, such as retaining land for a number of years after independence.

Settlers are in a majority in New Caledonia's population of 145,000 and most reject independence. Some said they plan to

greet Mr. Mitterrand with a protest rally to show their "desire to remain French".

Noumea Mayor Roger Laroque has said he will call on 50,000 residents to turn out during the visit for which a 3,000-strong security force, including riot police, has been deployed.

Many settlers say they feel betrayed by Mr. Mitterrand and plan to line Noumea streets waving the French flag.

Mr. Tjibaou said the dead and detained Kanaks were a debt that France must repay.

"The French Socialist government's talk about decolonisation does not appear to be applicable to New Caledonia," he said.

Police shot dead prominent Kanak militant Eloi Machoro last week, prompting declaration of a state of emergency.

"Machoro's death has introduced a new element," Mr. Tjibaou said, adding that it forced

Kanaks to break off talks with French special envoy Edgard Pisani.

"This new fact (the shooting) does not allow us to meet Pisani. We need more time for reflection," he added.

Mr. Pisani has suggested a referendum in July on whether the territory, ruled by France for 131 years, should become independent next January.

The militants launched their campaign in November by setting up roadblocks that paralysed most rural areas.

Mr. Tjibaou said Friday they agreed to lift the roadblocks and negotiate with Mr. Pisani "because that was the logic of our actions".

He said Kanaks at first trusted Mr. Pisani when the envoy said a "new order" was needed in the territory.

But Mr. Pisani later appeared to be speaking only to settlers, Mr. Tjibaou said.



A group of Israeli soldiers waits at a helicopter pad near the Awali River Friday to return to Israel on leave. Near them is equipment which has been collected near the helicopter pad for when the first phase of the Israeli plan to partially withdraw from Lebanon takes place (AP wirephoto)

U.S. rules out aid to Kampuchean guerrillas

BANGKOK (R) — A senior U.S. official Friday ruled out military aid to non-Communist Kampuchean guerrillas but said Washington would give them more political, diplomatic and humanitarian help.

Paul Wolfowitz, assistant secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, told a news conference that weapons for guerrillas should be provided by Asian countries directly concerned with the Kampuchean problem.

He said that chances for a political settlement of the Kampuchean conflict would be better if Washington refrained from military support of Kampuchean guerrillas.

For the past six years the United States has given food, medicine and other humanitarian assistance to two non-Communist, anti-Vietnamese Kampuchean guerrilla factions.

It has also given diplomatic and political support to those groups at the United Nations and other international organizations.

But Mr. Wolfowitz emphasized the United States did not in the past nor would in the future give aid in any form to the Khmer Rouge.

Meanwhile two Vietnamese refugees claim to have seen nearly 100 American prisoners of war under guard at three locations in Vietnam and Laos in 1979 and 1982.

A Pentagon spokesman said Thursday both men were thoroughly interviewed and it was decided their claims were false. "Both appear to have fabricated their information," he said. Vietnam denies having any American prisoners.

With about 2,500 American servicemen still listed as missing in action (MIA) during the Vietnam War, the subject is a highly sensitive one here.

The United States has no diplomatic relations with Vietnam but has been trying to trace servicemen missing in action. It has criticized Hanoi for moving slowly on the issue.

Americans captured during the war were released in 1973 after a peace agreement with Hanoi ended direct U.S. military involvement in the wars in Indochina.

'New Zealand will not take on nuclear role'

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — Japan and New Zealand Friday agreed on the need to strengthen the unity of the Western Bloc, but Wellington has refused to take on a nuclear role, a Japanese government spokesman said.

The agreement on Western unity came in a meeting between Prime Ministers Yasuhiro Nakasone and David Lange, he said.

Mr. Nakasone arrived in the largest New Zealand city Friday from Australia on the last leg of a week-long tour of four South Pacific countries which also included Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

The spokesman said Mr. Lange reiterated his government's policy of "not taking on nuclear role" in helping to maintain a power balance between the West and East.

"The United States, a member of the ANZUS security treaty with New Zealand and Australia, is worried about the policy because Wellington refuses U.S. nuclear-powered ships to call at its ports. New Zealand differs from Australia on the issue."

Australian Prime Minister Bob

Hawke told Mr. Nakasone earlier in Canberra that ANZUS was important for the security of his country and it would allow calls at Australian ports.

Japan, which has a security treaty with the United States, refuses calls by nuclear ships of any country. But American nuclear-powered vessels have been visiting Japan regularly.

Mr. Lange also explained to Mr. Nakasone the idea of a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific promoted by the South Pacific Forum to which both Australia and New Zealand belong, the spokesman said.

The forum was to work out a draft treaty to be taken to the United Nations sometime this year based on three principles.

They are that any member nation will not manufacture, store and deploy nuclear weapons; Any member nation can decide whether to allow port calls by nuclear-powered or armed ships; Members will guarantee passage of such ships in the open seas of the zone.

Sikh high priests reject police offer of protection

NEW DELHI (R) — Four head priests of the highest Sikh religious order have turned down a government offer to provide them with protection following an attack on their leader, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Friday.

The news agency said Pritam Singh and Giani Sahib Singh, two of the five head priests of the Akal Takht in Amritsar's Golden Temple, told reporters in the holy city that they were approached by police Thursday with an offer of protection from the government.

Two fellow head priests had also turned down the offer, PTI said.

Police Thursday arrested two men suspected of shooting and wounding the fifth and most senior of the priests on Wednesday near the Punjab town of Ludhiana.

Jathedar Giani Kirpal Singh, widely viewed as a moderate among Sikh leaders, was shot and wounded by three Sikh youths when his car stopped at the roadside.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who has said his government will give top priority to finding a solution to the Punjab crisis, has condemned the attack on Kirpal Singh.

Several Sikh political and religious leaders have said authorities must protect Sikh lives and property before any peace talks with the government can take place.

At least 1,270 people, mainly Sikhs, died in riots triggered by the assassination of the prime minister's mother, Indira Gandhi, on Oct. 31.

But PTI quoted Sahib Singh as saying that as the five men were religious people and harboured no ill will towards anyone, they needed no protection.

The Akal Takht, headquarters of the religious order, was badly damaged in fierce fighting when troops moved into the Golden Temple last June to root out extremists fighting for an independent Sikh nation. At least 800 people died in the battle.

Quebec's ruling party holds convention today

OTTAWA (R) — Quebec's ruling Parti Quebecois, torn by a dispute over the future of its separatist cause, holds a convention Saturday to decide whether independence should be the central issue in the next provincial election.

With the party's popularity plummeting and Quebecers more concerned about jobs than statehood, Premier Rene Levesque decided to fight the provincial election, expected later this year, over the economy rather than independence from Canada.

That sparked a cabinet mutiny late last year by seven hardline separatist ministers, led by Finance Minister Jacques Parizeau, who refused to shelve the dream

of a new Francophone state.

Mr. Levesque took an ideological gamble in giving the economy priority, but it looks like paying off — he has the support of two out of every three of the 1,500 delegates to the Montreal meeting after a two-month campaign.

Mr. Levesque stunned Canada in 1976 when he swept to power vowing to found a breakaway state in Quebec.

But his dream was shattered in a battle with Federal Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1980 that ended in a 60 per cent to 40 per cent defeat for the separatist cause in an independence referendum.

Mr. Levesque's personal popularity and a pledge of good government were enough to secure

him victory at the polls in the 1981 provincial election. But now the party has the support of less than 25 per cent of Quebec voters.

So Levesque, struggling off a bout of ill-health, has decided to adopt a more cooperative approach towards new federal Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who won a landslide victory in last September's federal election. Mr. Levesque now insists independence is not an immediate political goal.

His pragmatic stand may have sparked the biggest crisis in the party's history, but even his separatist opponents acknowledge their cause stands little chance Saturday.

Cars banned as smog grips German district

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — The industrial cities of West Germany's normally bustling Ruhr district were in confusion Friday as a smog alarm went into effect banning private traffic and closing schools.

Commuters in Essen, Oberhausen, Muelheim, Bottrop and Duisburg reported long delays as overflowed trams and buses straggled home.

stations in the Ruhr said the companies had experienced no problems switching to low-sulphur coal or gas as ordered.

There were no bottlenecks in the supply of low-sulphur coal, and although stocks were only sufficient for eight days, suppliers had agreed to deliver more in the unlikely event that the smog alarm lasted longer.

local time and from 1500 to 2000 hours, the ministry said.

Phase two also obliges industry to turn to low-sulphur producing fuels.

The area, under a lid of thick smog, covers roughly 450 square kilometres and includes the industrial cities of Duisburg, Oberhausen and Essen.

COLUMN

Syrians top list of traffic offenders

BONN (R) — Syrians headed the list of diplomatic traffic offenders in West Germany's capital in 1989, and Polish diplomats were the most disciplined drivers, closely followed by the Papal Nuncio's chauffeur, the city of Bonn has said. Each of the 38 diplomatically registered vehicles of the Syrian embassy averaged 30 offences last year. Each of the Peruvian embassy's 11 vehicles was "booked" 21 times. The 44 vehicles of the Polish embassy averaged a mere 11 offences and the Papal Nuncio's three cars just one. The 507 U.S. embassy vehicles averaged 0.51 offences and the 131 Soviet vehicles 3.2 offences. Despite their diplomatic immunity, 30 embassies pay at least some of their fines — not necessarily to the city of Bonn, but to charities instead.

12 Britons held in S. Arabia for drinking

LONDON (R) — Twelve Britons have been arrested in Saudi Arabia for breaking the kingdom's strict ban on alcohol consumption, the Foreign Office has said. A spokesman said he did not know who the detainees were or when they were arrested. He said Britain was in contact with Saudi officials to secure their release. A mass-circulation newspaper the Sun said the Britons were arrested at a party and could face flogging for drinking. The Foreign Office spokesman told Reuters: "We believe they were arrested in connection with alcohol." He did not know whether the detainees would be flogged under Saudi Islamic Laws. The Sun quoted a British consular official in Jeddah as saying: "The partygoers were arrested after neighbours complained to the police. These arrests are designed to serve as an example."

Man drowns trying to rescue dog

STURMINSTER NEWTON, England (R) — A man drowned in freezing waters as he tried to rescue a terrified dog trapped on a river ice. Navy divers, a helicopter and firemen spent four hours searching for Norman John Mathews, 49, who fell through ice on the River Stour in south-west England in a bid to save the dog, stranded and howling in the middle of the river. The dog was later rescued by firemen. It's owners said they were saddened by Mathews' "tragic" death.

Senator named to crew of shuttle

WASHINGTON (R) — Senator Jake Garn was named as a crew member on a four-day U.S. space shuttle flight next month, space agency officials said. The space shuttle Challenger is scheduled to be launched on Feb. 20 from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. A Frenchman and a woman were also named to the crew. The flight's mission is to launch a tracking and data relay satellite and a Canadian communications satellite. The Challenger is scheduled to return to the Kennedy Centre on Feb. 24. Sen. Garn, a 52-year-old Republican from Utah, will serve as a payload specialist on the flight. He is a former navy pilot who is the chairman of a subcommittee which has jurisdiction over National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) appropriations. The seven-member crew will be commanded by Karol Bobko and includes the shuttle programme's first French astronaut, Patrick Baudry, as well as a woman astronaut, Rhea Sedn.

Burmese opium warlord dies

BANGKOK (R) — Burmese opium warlord Khun Sa died of diabetes last Wednesday. Thai Border Patrol Police (BPP) in northern Chiang Mai reported Friday. A police department official told Reuters no other details were given in the BPP report to headquarters here. Thai military officers in Bangkok could not confirm the report. Khun Sa, 52, also known as Chané Si Fa, headed the

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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ALMOST BRILLIANT

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ A1084
♦ J8
♦ A9754
♦ K5

WEST **EAST**
♦ QJ65 ♦ K9
♦ K1042 ♦ 9653
♦ J102 ♦ Q6
♦ 98 ♦ QJ742

SOUTH
♦ 732
♦ A Q7
♦ K83
♦ A1063

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 10 Pass 2NT
Pass 3NT Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠.
We are grateful to Australian internationalist Dick Cummings for this hand from a major tournament in his country. East-West were on their way to a magnificent defense, but stumbled at the critical point.

Despite the fact that he had only three low spades, South had no better response than two trumps. Since that bid denied a major suit, North settled for the no trump game.

West led his fourth-best spade, and declarer might have had a better chance had he risen with the ace in an

attempt to block the suit. Instead, he played low and East made the brilliant play of the nine. After declarer held up the ace when East continued with the king of spades, East shifted to a heart.

Declarer played low from hand, West won the king and reverted to the queen of spades, forcing out the ace as East shuffled a club. Since declarer could not come to nine tricks without the diamond suit, he led a low diamond from the table. East played low, declarer won the king and, reading the position perfectly, he ducked a diamond. East won the queen and, since he could make no damaging return, declarer was home in comfort.

Naturally, we expect our eagle-eyed readers will have spotted the defensive slip. On the third spade, East must discard the queen of diamonds! Now there is no way declarer can set up the diamonds without giving West the lead, and the jack of spades will be the setting trick.

Observe that it will not help East to rise with the queen of diamonds when that suit is led from the board. Declarer simply allows East to hold the trick, and his contract is again safe.

Tape points to high-level Taiwanese role in murder

TAIPEI (R) — Several senior military officials have been implicated by a secret tape containing "fantastic" details of the murder of a Chinese-American writer in California last year, official sources said Friday.

"No one knows how many have been involved," the sources told Reuters. "Government leaders are now waiting with their fingers crossed for the outcome of an official investigation."

The Taiwan government admitted on Tuesday that some of its intelligence officers were involved in the murder of Henry Liu, a stern critic of Taiwan who was shot dead by three Asians in Daly City, California, on Oct. 15.

The sources said the tape, recorded by Chen Chi-Li, a leading Taiwanese underworld figure and named by the FBI as one of the killers, identified several senior officials in the military who he said knew in advance of Mr. Liu's murder.

Three senior intelligence officers have been arrested so far. Only Colonel Chen Fu-Men, a deputy department head in the Military Intelligence Bureau, has been identified.

"The tape provided names and fantastic details of the murder which would have been considered a joke at other times. But

now official investigators are not letting any clues slip," the sources said without giving details.

The sources said U.S. authorities also possessed a copy of the Chen tape and said this had forced the Nationalist government to admit the intelligence involvement.

The China Times, a newspaper owned and published by senior Nationalist officials, said Chen made three copies of the tape and left them with friends in the United States and Taiwan.

Chen recorded details of his meetings with the officials apparently to protect himself, the paper said. He asked friends to make public the tape if he were arrested, it added.

One government source told Reuters investigators now had firm evidence that Chen met several senior intelligence officers before he left for the United States last September.

The China Times said Chen volunteered to kill Liu, considered a traitor by Nationalist officials after he published a critical biography of President Chiang Ching-Kuo in 1975.

The offer was made to intelligence shortly before a four-month government amnesty for gangsters expired last September, it said.

Crew trick hijacker into surrendering in U.S.

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — A man, who threatened to ignite a can of gasoline aboard an Eastern Airlines jet unless he was taken to Cuba, was apprehended Friday after he was tricked into thinking he had arrived at his destination, authorities said.

No one among the 120 other passengers and nine crew members was injured aboard the A300 jet flying from Newark, New Jersey, to Miami, said airline spokeswoman Paula Musto.

Lazardo Hernandez, 30, holding a cigarette lighter and a package he said contained gasoline, demanded the plane be diverted to Cuba, said Harvey Pechacek, communications supervisor for the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

The plane made an unscheduled landing here early Friday morning, and 2nd officer Dennis Lawrence "indicated to the potential hijacker that he had landed in

Cuba, at which instant Hernandez handed his lighter to the second officer and dropped the substance that he was holding and was apprehended by the Orlando Police Department," said Carolyn Fennell, a spokeswoman for Orlando International Airport.

Hernandez, 30, of Passaic, New Jersey, was arrested by Orlando Police, Ms. Fennell said.

An interpreter was needed for Orlando Police to communicate with Hernandez, who speaks Spanish, said Ms. Fennell.

A woman who answered the telephone listed in Hernandez's name in Passaic confirmed that he had been on an Eastern flight to Miami. When told a man identified by officials as Lazardo Hernandez had been arrested in the incident, she gasped and hung up. Reached again, the woman refused to identify herself or comment further.

Cyclone Eric kills 14 as another heads for Fiji

SUVA (R) — Fiji's second cyclone in three days is expected to pass close to the capital Suva Saturday after leaving a trail of destruction in the nearby Pacific nation of Vanuatu, weather forecasters said Friday.

They said cyclone Nigel was following the same path as Eric which Thursday killed at least 14 people and left 1,400 homeless on Fiji's main island, Viti Levu.

Nigel battered at least six major islands of Vanuatu, about 1,000 kilometres west of Fiji, police there said Friday.

They did not report any deaths

Thir bodies have been recovered and four of the 67 people on board are missing, they said.

In Fiji, communications with outer islands were still cut following Eric and power probably would not be fully restored for at least a week.

Nadi International Airport reopened briefly Friday.

Government sources said the Fiji cabinet was meeting Friday night to assess the situation.

Police said they feared the death toll would rise when inter-island links were restored.

Most of the deaths were reported

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